

- Females tended to have shorter *episodes* of remand and longer community-based sentenced supervision than males.
- A greater proportion of *supervision periods* by 11–12 year olds included *episodes* of pre-sentence detention (70%) than did those by young people aged 15 years or older (less than 57%).
- The reverse was true for sentenced detention (less than 2% for 11–12 year olds compared with at least 7% for those aged 15 or older).
- The proportion of Indigenous young people's *supervision periods* that included *episodes* of pre-sentence detention was consistently greater than the proportion for non-Indigenous young people (64% compared with 46% in 2003–04). This pattern was observed for both pre-sentence and sentenced detention. For community-based supervision, the opposite was observed.

Exits from pre-sentence detention *episodes*

- Over 59% of remand *episodes* in 2003–04 ended with the young person being released on bail. Less than 10% ended with the young person being sentenced and immediately commencing an *episode* of sentenced detention.
- The proportion of remand *episodes* for females to end by being released on bail was consistently greater than that for males, although this gap has been diminishing (from 75% compared with 65% in 2000–01 to 75% compared with 72% in 2003–04).
- The proportion of remand *episodes* ending with the young person being sentenced and immediately commencing an *episode* of detention increased with age. Less than 12% of remand *episodes* for young people aged 13 years or under ended by being sentenced compared with over 20% for those aged at least 15 years. Exit by being released on bail was relatively more common among the younger age groups.
- The proportion of *episodes* of remand that finished by release on bail was consistently lower among Indigenous than non-Indigenous young people (69% compared with 75% in 2003–04).

Juvenile Justice centres

- The average daily number of detainees (bed days in use) in juvenile detention centres in Australia during 2003–04 was 792. This included all young people in juvenile detention centres, and was not restricted to 10–17 year olds.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set

The involvement of juveniles in the criminal justice system is a matter of keen interest to many stakeholders. Governments, policy-makers, community groups and researchers alike seek information about this group of young people—particularly about the extent of and reasons for their involvement with the criminal justice system, and their experiences within it. However, with responsibility for juvenile justice resting at the state and territory level in Australia, nationally comparable data has been scarce. The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has, for a number of years, produced the ‘statistics on juvenile detention’ series which provides snapshot data on the numbers of juveniles in detention centres around Australia. All data regarding community-based sanctions with the possibilities of providing information on young people’s involvement with the systems have remained at jurisdictional level. The Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) fills this information gap. This important new national collection provides information on the broad characteristics and movement of young people through juvenile justice supervision.

1.1.1 Purpose of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set

The Juvenile Justice NMDS is designed to provide nationally comparable information to inform policy makers, researchers and the community about the involvement of young people with juvenile justice supervision in Australia, and to provide a mechanism to contribute to national monitoring of juvenile justice policies and programs. The potential benefits include:

- providing a national picture of juvenile justice supervision in Australia;
- determining the profile of young people with juvenile justice involvement;
- examining national trends over time;
- informing the community about juvenile detention and community-based supervision; and
- building capacity for research.

There are three related components of the juvenile justice NMDS—a young person collection, an *episode* collection and a juvenile justice centre collection. Together, these components provide information about young people who are under juvenile justice supervision in Australia. Juvenile justice may include supervision prior to a young person being sentenced, and/or supervision of an order following finalisation of the case, either within the community or in a custodial facility. A description of the NMDS and its component parts can be found in Chapter 2.

1.1.2 History of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set project

The decision to create a Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) was made in April 1999 when what is now the Community Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CSMAC) agreed to fund the National Community Services Information Management Group (NCSIMG) for its establishment. The process from then to the draft NMDS ready for pilot testing is detailed in the *Report on the Development of a Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set* (AIHW 2001).

The draft NMDS was field and pilot-tested during 2002 and 2003, with subsequent changes and refinements to the data items and collection methods. The data dictionary for the Juvenile Justice NMDS was finalised in early 2004. The changes made during this time are detailed in *Juvenile Justice: A New National Collection* (AIHW 2004).

1.2 The juvenile justice process in Australia

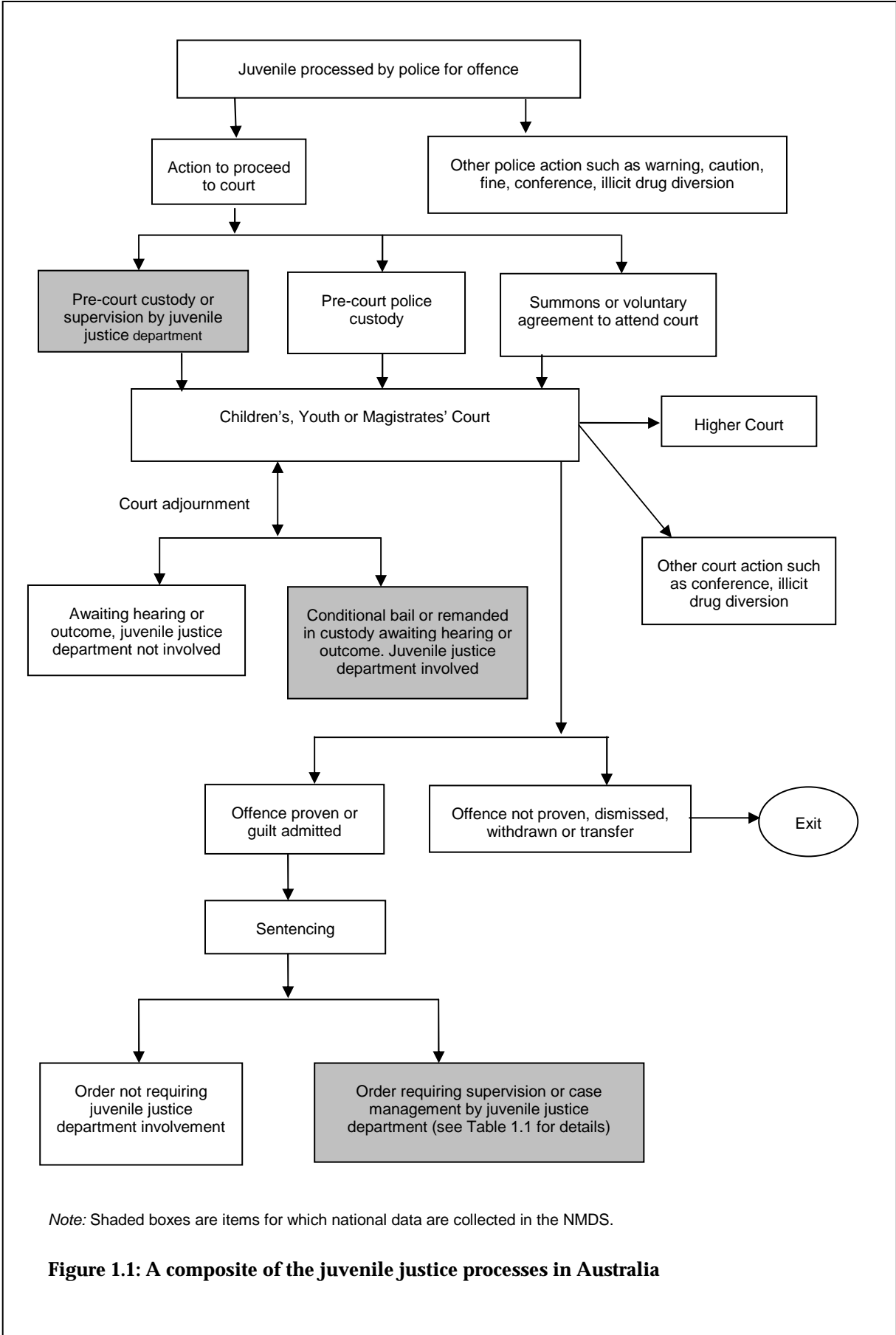
When a young person in Australia reaches the age of 10 years they are deemed in all states and territories to have criminal responsibility. This means that 10 years is the youngest age at which a young person may enter the formal criminal justice system for having committed or allegedly committed an offence. In most states and territories, young people are considered to be juveniles until they reach the age of

18 years. In the Australian Capital Territory, the juvenile justice legislation applies to young people aged 10 to 18 years at the time of the alleged offence and in Queensland to young people aged 10 to 16 years. Victoria's juvenile justice legislation has previously been similar to Queensland, but as of July 2005, Victoria's legislation also applies to young people aged 10 to 17 years. Victoria also has a sentencing option for adult courts which allows for 18 to 20 year olds to be sentenced to detention in juvenile justice facilities where appropriate. Young people may remain under juvenile justice supervision for some time whilst they are older than

17 years, as the legislative age refers to the age at which the offence occurred rather than the age the young person is under the supervision of the juvenile justice department.

The juvenile justice process in Australia involves the police, courts, juvenile justice departments, young people and their families, legal advocates and non-government organisations amongst others. Figure 1.1 illustrates the flow of the juvenile justice process. Juvenile justice departments may be involved in the supervision of young people at a number of stages within the juvenile justice process. Before a young person appears in court for an alleged offence they may be held in either police or juvenile justice department custody. Between court appearances, a young person may be given unsupervised bail, conditional bail (which may include supervision by a juvenile justice department), or they may be held on remand in a juvenile justice custodial facility. Following the finalisation of court proceedings, a young person may be given an order which involves the supervision or case management by a juvenile justice department.

A feature of the juvenile justice system in Australia is the diversion of young people away from the formal criminal justice system. Depending on the state or territory, this diversion may occur through the police, courts or the juvenile justice department. As shown in Figure 1.1, this means that not all young people who come into contact with the criminal justice authorities will end up under juvenile justice supervision, or they may have shortened contact with the formal juvenile justice system.



The court outcomes and services available in juvenile justice differ among states and territories. Those available in some form in most states and territories include those shown in Table 1.1. Some court outcomes, such as discharge without penalty, or a fine, may not involve juvenile justice supervision of the young person, whilst others, such as community service, usually will.

Most states and territories now include 'victim-offender conferencing' as part of juvenile justice. Conferences typically involve both the victim and young person together with representatives from the criminal justice system. The aim is to develop a negotiated response to the crime with the young person taking responsibility for the offence, and the needs of both the victim and young person being heard and met. Conferences may be held at a number of stages of the juvenile justice process and are administered variously by the police, courts or juvenile justice department.

Juvenile justice departments may be responsible for the supervision of young people on bail, community service orders, community-based orders, remand (awaiting sentencing), or detention.

Table 1.1: Range of juvenile justice outcomes and services available by state and territory, June 2004

Juvenile justice outcomes and services	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT
Pre-court pre-sentence diversionary outcomes								
Informal caution/warning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Formal caution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conferencing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Does not involve juvenile justice department								
Discharge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Obligation without supervision	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
May involve juvenile justice department								
Good behaviour bond	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Bail/pre-sentence support and supervision	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓		✓	✓
Conferencing	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Community-based supervision (probation)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Suspended detention	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Home detention					✓*		✓	✓
Custodial remand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Detention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supervised release from detention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

* Cells indicate items which are within NMDS scope but for which data are unavailable for the NMDS.

Note: Shaded cells indicate items which are within NMDS scope and for which data are collected in the NMDS. Other ticked cells indicate juvenile justice outcomes and services that the states and territories offer, but which are outside the scope of the NMDS.

Legislation which each juvenile justice department is responsible for administering are listed in Appendix A. Details of key elements of the juvenile justice systems in each state and territory including where juvenile justice is placed within the structure and the process (pre-court, court and juvenile justice department supervision) are outlined in Appendix B.

1.3 Key policy directions

The juvenile justice area is constantly evolving, with new policy initiatives and programs being formulated to address the offending behaviour of young people. The emergence of victim-offender conferencing as an integral part of juvenile justice services over recent years is an example of this. In this section, some of the key policy directions which the juvenile justice departments will be taking over the next couple of years are outlined.

1.3.1 New South Wales

For juvenile justice in New South Wales, key policy directions will include:

- diversions under the *Young Offenders Act 1997* through cautions, warnings and conferences, including targeted support for young people with a range of disabilities;
- effective interventions for young offenders, particularly 10 to 14 year olds who may be at risk of becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system;
- targeted assessment and case management of young offenders in the community and in custody to resolve a range of needs that may include disability/mental health, and alcohol and other drug issues; and
- reducing the over-representation of young Indigenous people in the juvenile justice system by building capacity within Aboriginal communities to support their young people and develop their strengths.

1.3.2 Victoria

Key policy directions for juvenile justice in Victoria are:

- the continued diversion of young people from entering or progressing through the justice system including the legislative age change, the provision of court advice, group conferencing, and central after-hours assessment and bail placement service;
- the effective management of young people to reduce offending through the provision of effective assessment processes (Victorian Offender Needs Indicator for Youth—VONIY), targeted and evidence-based interventions and case management systems through the implementation of the rehabilitation review, and the provision of transitional support services to reintegrate young people into the community; and
- continued development of approaches aimed at addressing the over-representation of young Indigenous people in the justice system including the development of the Children's Koori Court and the further development of the Koori Juvenile Justice Program.

1.3.3 Queensland

Key policy directions for youth justice in Queensland include:

- the exploration of options for reducing offending including more effective risk needs assessments for young people (matched to the criminogenic needs of the young person), the development of evidence-based programs that are informed by ‘what works’, and post-detention programs to encourage reintegration into communities as vital for achieving long-term behavioural change;
- a service delivery review which includes the assessment of good practice models for case management and the development of a new needs-based assessment framework. This work is providing a framework for the new ICMS (Integrated Client Management System) database tool, which will replace the existing FAMYJ database and will help facilitate a continuum of care for young people in the youth justice system with case plans that follow a young person throughout the system; and
- A review of youth justice conferencing to develop a sustainable service delivery model for youth justice conferencing across the state, in response to increasing demands for conferencing services.

These policy projects are aligned to the major funding commitment for the expansion of community-based youth justice service centres across the state, as well as responding to an increased demand for youth justice conferencing.

1.3.4 Western Australia

A reform package for juvenile justice services was implemented in August 2004, and includes a number of initiatives as well as new legislation—*Young Offenders Amendment Act*, proclaimed on 1 January 2005. The main initiatives are:

- establishing an intensive supervision program for serious repeat juvenile offenders;
- curfews with the option of electronic monitoring on supervised release or conditional release orders;
- establishing community supervision agreements in remote and regional areas; and
- developing community juvenile conferencing in regional areas, based on the successful juvenile justice teams concept.

1.3.5 South Australia

A Youth Justice Directorate has recently been established in South Australia, which provides strategic guidance and ensures service system coordination. The primary aim is to develop a clear justice-focused model for managing young people on justice orders, involving a greater degree of coordination and specialisation in assessment, planning and intervention.

The key features of this are:

- justice intervention that targets offending behaviour as the primary issue for change, using criminogenic risk-focused assessment, supervision and intervention;
- the existence of clear links with, and pathways to welfare, wellbeing and education services to ensure that these broader needs are met without the risk of further criminalisation; and
- service development and delivery occur in partnership with young people, their families, communities and government and non-government agencies.

1.3.6 Tasmania

Key policy directions in Tasmania are:

- continued development of a new philosophical framework based on restorative justice principles;
- use of a common framework for assessing young people's criminogenic risks and needs;
- development of community support for young offenders by working in partnership with young people, families and the community as well as government and non-government agencies and the corporate sector;
- reducing young people's re-offending;
- improved data collection methods for recording Indigenous status;
- development and implementation of a collaborative case management practice program for clients with complex and exceptional needs in 2005–06;
- improvement in exit planning for young people leaving detention; and
- reduction of time young people spend on remand.

1.3.7 Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory government has committed itself to the Australian Capital Territory Young People's Plan 2004–2008. Under the plan the government has focused on two major areas in relation to juvenile justice;

- young people at risk; and
- young people's completion of school and the provision of appropriate and effective training.

For 2003–2004 the focus was:

- development of a common case management approach across the youth sector;
- additional staffing to reduce client loads and increase programs for clients in community supervision;
- expansion of diversionary and restorative justice programs, including the establishment of the Restorative Justice Unit;
- improvement in exit planning and transitioning of young people leaving detention;
- introduction of Indigenous Liaison Officers for Indigenous young people in custody;

- the development of an Indigenous hostel to support clients on bail, community-based orders and those released from custodial sentences; and
- the establishment of the Turnaround Program to improve outcomes for young people with high and complex needs.

1.3.8 Northern Territory

A major theme of policy direction in the Northern Territory is diversion:

- A new juvenile justice Act is currently being developed, which will include provisions for diversion. The new Act contains a presumption for diversion and the capacity for courts to refer matters back to Juvenile Diversion.
- In 2004 all community corrections staff were trained in restorative justice principles.
- Funding for the Pre-Court Juvenile Diversion Scheme ended on 30 June 2005. A Working Party has been established to consider the evaluation of the scheme and develop options for the future operation of the scheme.

1.4 Structure of the data presented in this report

The results presented in this report are presented in three parts:

- the characteristics of the young people under juvenile justice supervision;
- the characteristics of the *episodes* and *supervision periods* of that juvenile justice supervision; and
- information about detention centres in Australia.

The main focus is on data from the 2003–04 financial year with time-series data over the period 2000–01 to 2003–04 presented where applicable.

Young person collection

Chapter 3 contains data on the number, sex, age and Indigenous status of the young people supervised by juvenile justice departments in Australia during the collection period 2000–01 to 2003–04.

***Episode* collection**

Chapter 4 provides details of the types of supervision provided, and differences based on young person characteristics such as age, sex, Indigenous status and previous contact with juvenile justice supervision.

Supervision *periods*

This section includes the number and length of *supervision periods* and the types of *episodes* contained within them.

Community supervision and detention

This section examines community-based and detention-based juvenile justice supervision. The type of supervision experienced when sentenced following a period in remand is also analysed.

Sex, age and Indigenous status comparisons

These sections analyse differences among young people in terms of sex, age and Indigenous status in the types of supervision received, using data from the *supervision periods* and community versus detention sections.

Reasons for exit from *episodes*

The reasons for exit from various types of *episodes* of juvenile justice supervision are detailed in this section.

Centre collection

Chapter 5 provides details on the usage of juvenile detention facilities in Australia.

2 National juvenile justice data: scope, definitions and interpretational issues

2.1 The Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

The focus of the Juvenile Justice NMDS is the experience of the young person under juvenile justice supervision. This makes the NMDS somewhat different to other criminal justice collections which focus on legal orders. The Juvenile Justice NMDS provides information about young people who are being supervised by juvenile justice departments in Australia. Pre-sentence and sentenced supervision both within the community and in detention fall within the scope of the NMDS, as shown in Figure 1.1, and are analysed in this report. Elements of the juvenile justice system which do not require juvenile justice department supervision (such as police and court actions) are not included in the scope of the NMDS.

The Juvenile Justice NMDS consists of three related information components: young person-based (see Section 2.1.1), *episode*-based (see Section 2.1.2) and centre-based (see Section 2.1.3). The young person and *episode*-based collections are unit record and are linked both in content and analysis. The centre collection contains aggregate data and is analysed separately. Aggregate data is collected in a summarised form, whereas unit record data provides more detailed information at the level of, for example, individual *episodes*. The sophistication of unit record data allows for more flexible and in depth analysis.

The data in this report are extracted from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments responsible for juvenile justice in Australia, according to definitions and counting rules agreed to by the departments and the AIHW. The relevant departments are:

- Department of Juvenile Justice, New South Wales
- Department of Human Services, Victoria
- Department of Communities, Queensland
- Department of Justice, Western Australia
- Department for Families and Communities, South Australia
- Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania
- Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, Australian Capital Territory
- Department of Justice, Northern Territory.

2.1.1 Young person collection

The NMDS is designed to capture information on all young people involved under juvenile justice supervision throughout Australia. As outlined in section 1.2, the ages of young people in the juvenile justice systems in Australia differ among jurisdictions. To allow for these variations, a young person for the purposes of inclusion in the NMDS is:

A person who is under the supervision or case management of the juvenile justice department as a result of:

- having committed or allegedly committed an offence between the ages of 10 and 17 years; or
- having committed or allegedly committed an offence at an age greater than 17 years, and who is treated as a juvenile due to his or her vulnerability or immaturity.

This definition means that there will be young people over the age of 17 who are in the NMDS for one of two reasons. Firstly, because the definition is about the age at which the offence was committed or allegedly committed, the young person may be older when they are actually under juvenile justice supervision than at the time of the offence. Secondly, the definition allows for some young people to be managed within the juvenile justice system when older than 17 at the time of the alleged offence.

The young person collection includes information on young people who have been subject to juvenile justice supervision throughout Australia. The collection includes a statistical linkage key (see below), which provides the capacity to link the records of young people across jurisdictions. These linkage possibilities are not explored in this first report.

The *date of first contact* data item reports on the date at which the young person would have begun their first NMDS *episode*, even where this is prior to the beginning of the collection period. The data items in the young person collection are shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Data items in Juvenile Justice NMDS young person collection

Young person ID (a jurisdictionally based code)
Letters of name (specific combination of letters used for statistical linkage purposes)
Date of birth
Sex
Statistical linkage key (derived by AIHW from letters of name, sex and date of birth)
Indigenous status
Date of first contact

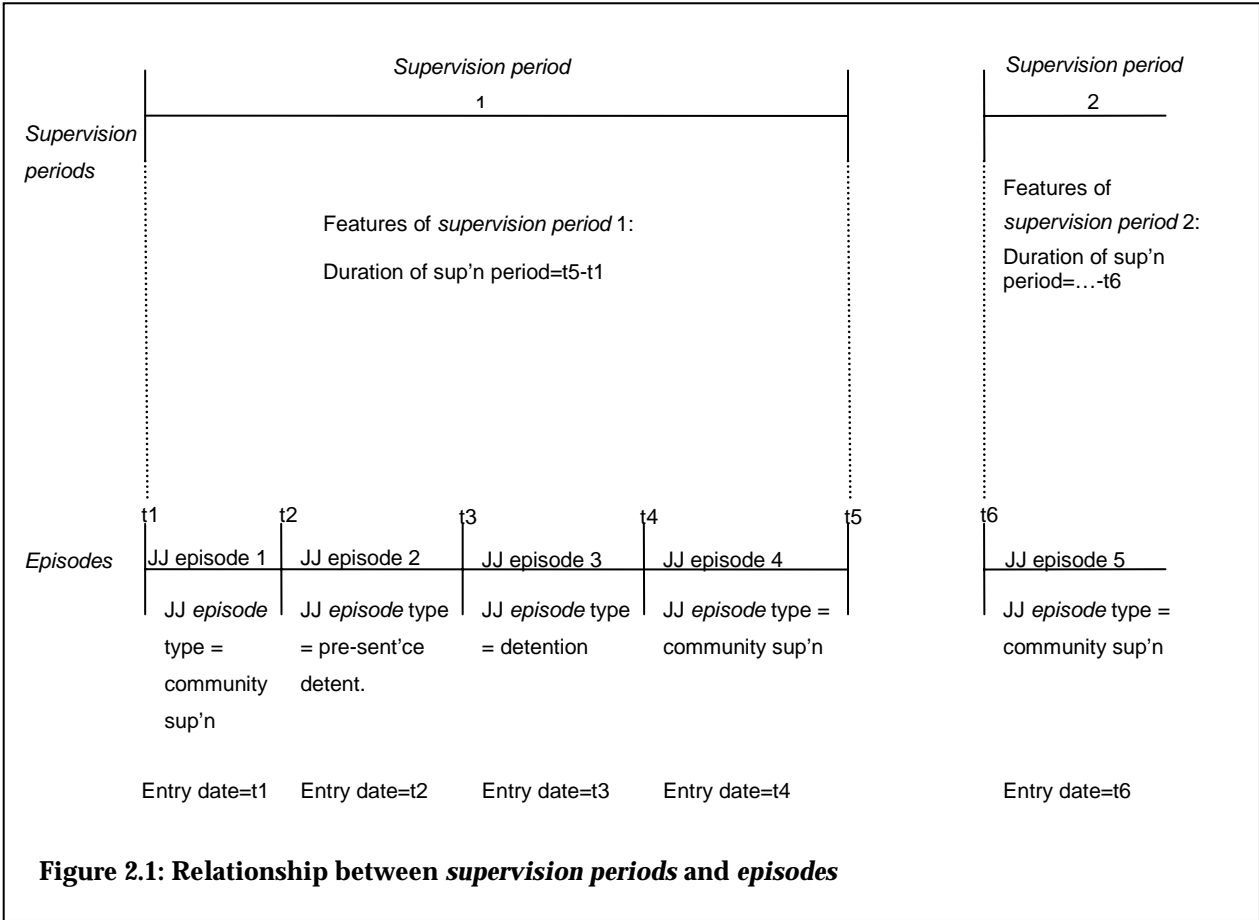
Once the statistical linkage key is derived and encrypted, the *letters of name* data item is deleted to ensure that no identifying information is retained.

2.1.2 Episode collection

The *episode* collection provides information about the length and type of contact between young people and juvenile justice departments. Data are recorded in *episodes*, and analysed in *supervision periods*. Neither of these equates directly to a court order. The NMDS does not record information on concurrent *episodes*; only recording information on one *episode* at a time. The record that is created for the NMDS *episodes* is determined by a pre-defined hierarchy of *episode* types (see Hierarchy of *episode* types on page 14).

What is a supervision period?

A *supervision period* provides broad-level information on contacts between young people and juvenile justice departments, and *episodes* provide the detail regarding the length and type of that contact. *Supervision periods* may consist of one continuous or multiple contiguous *episodes*. Figure 2.1 illustrates the relationship between *episodes* and *supervision periods*. A *supervision period* ceases when for at least 2 days a young person is not subject to any juvenile justice department supervision.



In the example in Figure 2.1, a young person has completed one *supervision period*, and is currently in a second *supervision period*. The first completed *supervision period*, commenced at

time 1 (t1) with an *episode* of sentenced community-based supervision (JJ *episode* 1). This was followed at t2 by JJ *episode* 2 of remand (pre-sentence detention). An *episode* of sentenced detention at t3 followed this remand, and upon completion of the detention, the young person continued the community-based supervision in JJ *episode* 4. When this community-based supervision was completed, there was no further authority requiring juvenile justice supervision, and therefore the *supervision period* ended at t5. Sometime later at t6, a new community-based supervision *episode* began, which signalled the start of a second *supervision period*.

The *supervision periods* tell us that there have been two *periods* of supervision with a juvenile justice department, and the *episodes* describe the type and length of that supervision.

In the Juvenile Justice NMDS data dictionary, there are formal definitions for both a *supervision period* and an *episode*.

A *supervision period* is defined as:

A period of time during which a juvenile justice young person is under the supervision of, or is case managed by, a State or Territory juvenile justice department, as a result of having committed or allegedly committed an offence.

Supervision periods are a conceptual unit of analysis only — they are derived from *episode* data, rather than being specifically collected data elements themselves. A *supervision period* may contain one or more *episodes*. Juvenile justice *supervision periods* allow the analysis of returns to juvenile justice supervision. This is in contrast to juvenile justice *episodes* which allow for the analysis of progression within juvenile justice *supervision periods*.

What is an *episode*?

An *episode* is defined as:

A period of time during which a juvenile justice young person is under the supervision of, or is case managed by, a State or Territory juvenile justice department, as a result of having committed or allegedly committed an offence, and *where there is no change in the type of supervision provided or the specific Juvenile Justice agency responsible*.

Episodes provide a view of the highest known (as dictated by the hierarchy) category of supervision, including both pre-sentence and sentenced community – and detention-based supervision.

As shown in Figure 2.1, the NMDS will only record a young person as being on one *episode* at a time. If a young person is subject to more than one type of supervision simultaneously (for example, whilst undergoing a community sentence a young person is placed on remand for a new offence), the highest *episode* according to the hierarchy is recorded by the NMDS (see hierarchy of *episode* types).

The data items reported on in the *episode* collection are shown in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Data items reported on in Juvenile Justice NMDS *episode* collection

Entry date
Juvenile justice <i>episode</i> type
Transferred from
Reason for exit (from <i>episode</i>)
Exit date

Hierarchy of *episode* types

A young person can be recorded as being on only one juvenile justice *episode* at any point in time (i.e. they cannot have concurrent juvenile justice *episodes*). If a young person is subject to two or more types of supervision at a particular time in a jurisdiction, then the one that is highest in the NMDS hierarchy will be recorded in the Juvenile Justice NMDS. The hierarchy is presented below with 1 being the highest possible episode type and 12 being the lowest possible episode type:

- 1 Sentenced—detention
- 2 Pre-sentence—court referred—remanded in juvenile justice facility
- 3 Pre-court—police referred—held in juvenile justice facility
- 4 Sentenced—home detention
- 5 Sentenced—immediate release or suspended detention
- 6 Sentenced—parole or supervised release
- 7 Sentenced—other community-based supervision and other mandated requirements (e.g. work, attendance at a program)
- 8 Sentenced—community-based supervision without additional mandated requirements
- 9 Sentenced—other
- 10 Pre-sentence—court referred—other (e.g. supervised bail)
- 11 Pre-court—police referred—other
- 12 Other

As the highest possible *episode* type, all sentenced detention *episodes* will be recorded on the NMDS. *Episode* types lower on the hierarchy however may not always be recorded in the NMDS. For example, if a young person is subject to pre-sentence community supervision at the same time as a community-based sentence, the pre-sentence supervision will be hidden and not recorded by the NMDS. Similarly, *episode* types lower on the hierarchy may be broken up by the occurrence of higher level *episodes*. For example, if a young person is on a community-based sentence *episode* but is then remanded on other matters, the community-based sentence *episode* will end and the young person will be shown only as being on a pre-sentence detention (remand) *episode*. Should the young person be released from remand whilst the original community-based sentence is still in force, the NMDS will show that the pre-sentence detention *episode* has ended and a second community-based sentence *episode* has begun.

This is in keeping with the focus of the NMDS being on the experience of the young person under juvenile justice supervision, rather than a count of court orders. The NMDS will therefore report on *supervision periods* and *episodes*, and these should not be interpreted as being equivalent to orders.

2.1.3 Juvenile justice centre collection

Information related to each of the juvenile justice remand or detention centres is aggregated data collected annually. Unlike the young person focus in the other two collections in the NMDS, this collection is designed to capture information about the occupancy of the detention centres, and includes the items shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Data items reported on in Juvenile Justice NMDS centre collection

Centre name
Number of detainees

The remand or detention centres throughout Australia for which data are collected are listed in Appendix C.

2.2 Interpretation of the data

Some contextual information about the population of young people in Australia should be kept in mind when reading the results in this report. The following provides some information about the demographic context of the Australian population including significant differences among the states and territories.

2.2.1 Demographic context

The Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations have different age distributions, and the proportion of the population who are Indigenous varies with state and territory.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Australia

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is younger than the rest of the Australian population. As Table 2.4 shows, the proportion of Indigenous Australians who are aged 10–17 years (20%) is approximately twice that of the non-Indigenous population (11%). This is consistent throughout Australia, with little difference among the states and territories.

Table 2.4: Australian population aged 10–17 years, by Indigenous status, 2004

Population	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Indigenous									
Aged 10–17	30,145	6,377	28,095	14,210	5,567	3,911	11,125	848	100,324
Total (all ages)	151,182	31,969	141,023	72,457	27,893	18,317	59,899	4,607	507,586
<i>% of total aged 10–17</i>	19.9	19.9	19.9	19.6	20.0	21.4	18.6	18.4	19.7
Non-Indigenous									
Aged 10–17	698,823	524,808	414,559	213,224	156,324	51,165	13,994	34,638	2,107,928
Total (all ages)	6,580,113	4,940,810	3,741,014	1,909,747	1,506,357	463,811	140,014	319,414	19,603,711
<i>% of total aged 10–17</i>	10.6	10.6	11.1	11.2	10.4	11.0	10.0	10.8	10.8

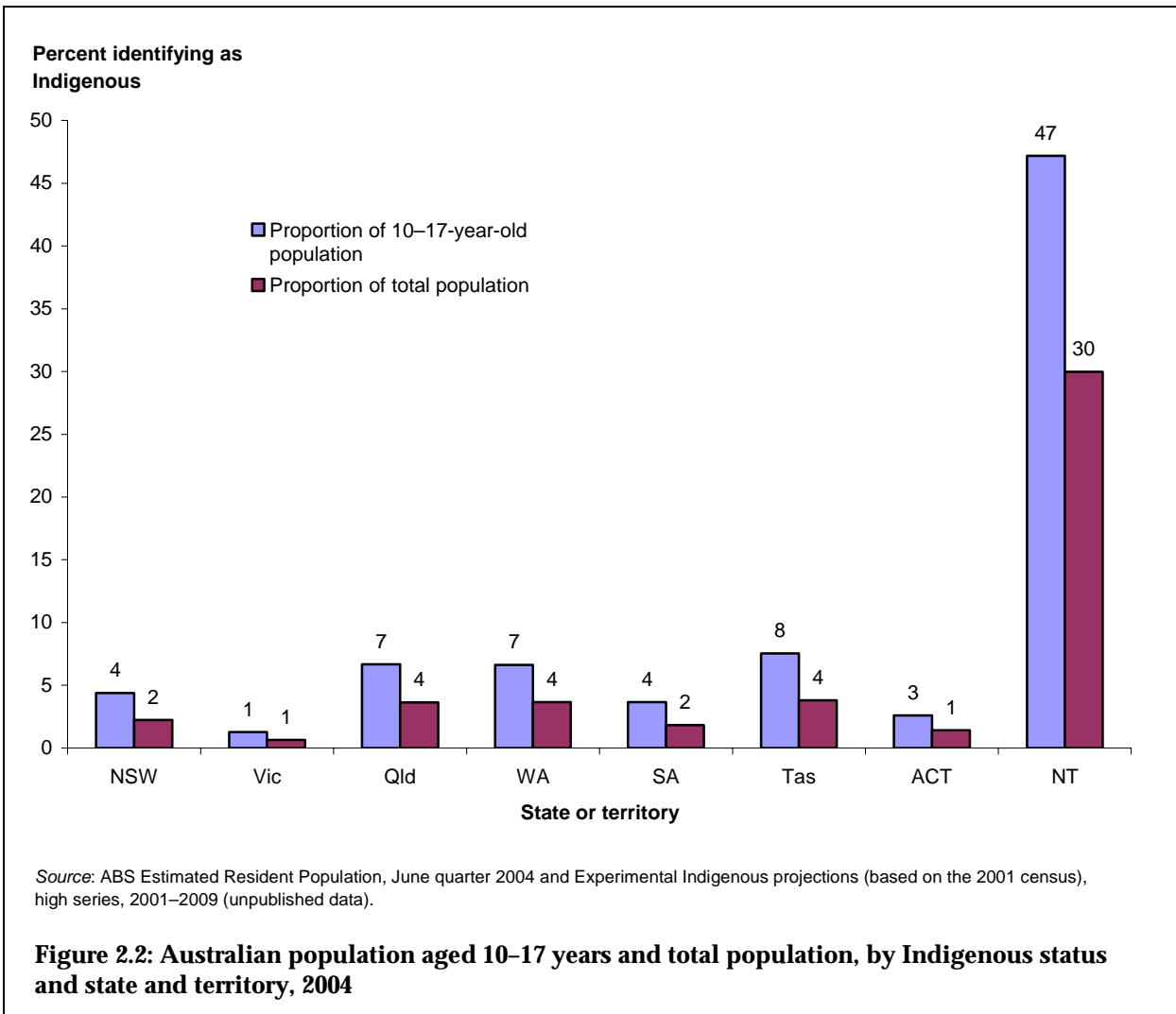
Note: Indigenous population figures are based on the ABS high series estimate from the 2001 Census.

Source: ABS Estimated Resident Population, June quarter 2004 and Experimental Indigenous projections (based on the 2001 census), high series, 2001–2009 (unpublished data).

Age of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

From the total Australian population, about 2.5% identified/were identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. However of the population aged 10–17 years, this rises to 4.5%.

The Indigenous population in Australia are unevenly distributed throughout the country, with a particularly high proportion (47%) living in the Northern Territory. Figure 2.2 shows that, with the exception of the Northern Territory, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders represent a small proportion of the population aged 10–17 years (1% in Victoria to 8% in Tasmania).



These differences in the population, particularly in the Northern Territory, should be kept in mind when interpreting the data. This is especially important for juvenile justice data—an area in which Indigenous young people are over-represented.

2.2.2 Data interpretation issues

Indigenous status data

The methods of obtaining and recording information for the data item Indigenous status differed among jurisdictions during the collection period. The aim of the Juvenile Justice NMDS is to report on Indigenous status according to the ABS standard which differentiates among the following categories:

- Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
- Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
- Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin.

Because of different standards of data quality for this item, the categories have been collapsed for the purposes of reporting, and will be referred to as Indigenous and non-Indigenous in this report. Records for which Indigenous status is not stated/unknown are excluded from the calculation of rates.

Pre-court and pre-sentence *episode* types

In some of the states and territories, existing data recording systems and practices do not allow for a clear distinction to be made between pre-court and pre-sentence *episode* types. For the purposes of this report, all of these *episode* types are therefore reported as pre-sentence *episodes*.

Community-based supervision (sentenced)

In the data dictionary, an allowance is made to distinguish between community-based supervision with or without additional mandated requirements. Such requirements may include community work or program attendance. Similarly to the pre-court and pre-sentence *episode* types, some states and territories are unable at this stage to clearly define whether or not additional mandated requirements exist on a community-based supervision *episode*. Therefore these *episode* types have been collapsed and are reported as community-based supervision.

Calculation of rates

The findings in this report include rates of 10–17 year olds under juvenile justice supervision. These have been calculated at per 1,000 relevant population, rather than per 100,000. This calculation method was chosen to ensure comparability between smaller and larger jurisdictions.

2.3 Development and data quality

A major challenge for any national data collection in Australia is to produce nationally comparable data, given a starting point of different legislation, counting rules, administrative data systems and recording practices in each jurisdiction. The Juvenile Justice NMDS has been able to achieve detailed and comparable data that enhances the available national information in this important area. All jurisdictions were able to provide data contributing to a comprehensive picture of juvenile justice supervision in Australia. Data quality is an ongoing issue in the development of the NMDS, with continual improvements as each jurisdiction is able to alter or add to their own data practices to suit the NMDS requirements.

2.3.1 Data systems and recording practices

There are a number of differences in the data systems and recording practices of juvenile justice data within Australia because of variation in the administration of juvenile justice. The juvenile justice data system may stand alone (such as in New South Wales), while in some jurisdictions, the child protection and juvenile justice data are recorded on one system (Victoria is moving to this system), and in others, juvenile justice is recorded within an integrated criminal justice recording system (such as Northern Territory). In most cases this does not adversely affect the ability of the jurisdictions to extract NMDS compliant data, however there are some exceptions.

In Western Australia, information is recorded on separate database systems for community supervision and custodial supervision. These systems are not linked in any way, and therefore in order to obtain the data for the *episode* collection in this report, the two data extractions were matched and merged based on the statistical linkage key (SLK). While this linkage is accurate for research purposes it is not 100% accurate and therefore there is a chance that some records were merged in error. The planned introduction of new community-based systems will allow for better integration of the information held.

In Queensland, data on conditional bail are held in a database separate from the remaining juvenile justice data, and were unable to be extracted for this report. In the future, new integrated data systems are planned, which should alleviate this problem.

2.3.2 Data development

The development and refinement of data items in the Juvenile Justice NMDS is an ongoing process. It is hoped and anticipated that in the future, offence types will be included as data items in the *episode* collection.

Key performance indicators are also being developed to assist in the monitoring of systemic aspects of juvenile justice supervision.

2.3.3 Data quality

The Juvenile Justice NMDS provides new data not reported elsewhere. The inclusion of community-based supervision, and the collection of data on a unit record level each represent substantial departures from previous reporting on juvenile justice in Australia. The report contains valuable new policy-relevant data in this field.

The quality of data provided for this first report of a new national collection was good overall. The coverage of data is very high with missing data confined to supervised bail and reason for exit data in Queensland, pre-sentence data in Tasmania and some reason-for-exit data from Victoria and Northern Territory. In some instances, this was due to coding issues commonly experienced in a first report of this complexity. Much of these data will be available and reported on in the next edition. Data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 from the Australian Capital Territory were unavailable. In all other instances, it is believed that 100% of young people within scope of the collection, being supervised by juvenile justice departments as a result of having committed or allegedly committed an offence, were included in the data.

Differences in data collection methods, data recording systems within jurisdictions and an unwillingness of some young people to respond to questions around Indigenous status all impact on the quality of Indigenous data. As in the whole of the community services sector, there is a commitment to improving Indigenous status data in juvenile justice. For example, over the 4 year period, there has been a general decline in Indigenous status unknown data in most jurisdictions.

There were few instances where results were unexpected or inconsistent and possibly indicate data quality issues. Where this did occur in individual states and territories, it is likely that the identification of them through this initial report will lead to improvements in future years and more complete future reporting.

3 Young person collection

This chapter presents information about young people in Australia under juvenile justice supervision at some time during 2000–01 to 2003–04. The numbers and rates of young people in supervision, and the age at which they first had supervision, as well as broad demographical information such as age, sex and Indigenous status are included.

3.1 Number of young people in supervision

Table 3.1 shows the number of young persons under juvenile justice supervision in each state and territory, for each year in the collection period of 2000–01 to 2003–04. The community figure includes all young people in community-based juvenile justice supervision at any time during that collection year. Similarly, the detention figure represents those young people who have experienced detention-based supervision at any time during the collection year. The numbers for community and detention will not add up to the ‘all young persons’ figure, as some young people will have had both community and detention supervision during the collection year. Most young people who undergo juvenile justice supervision do so in the community, rather than in a detention setting. Few young people were in only detention-based supervision.

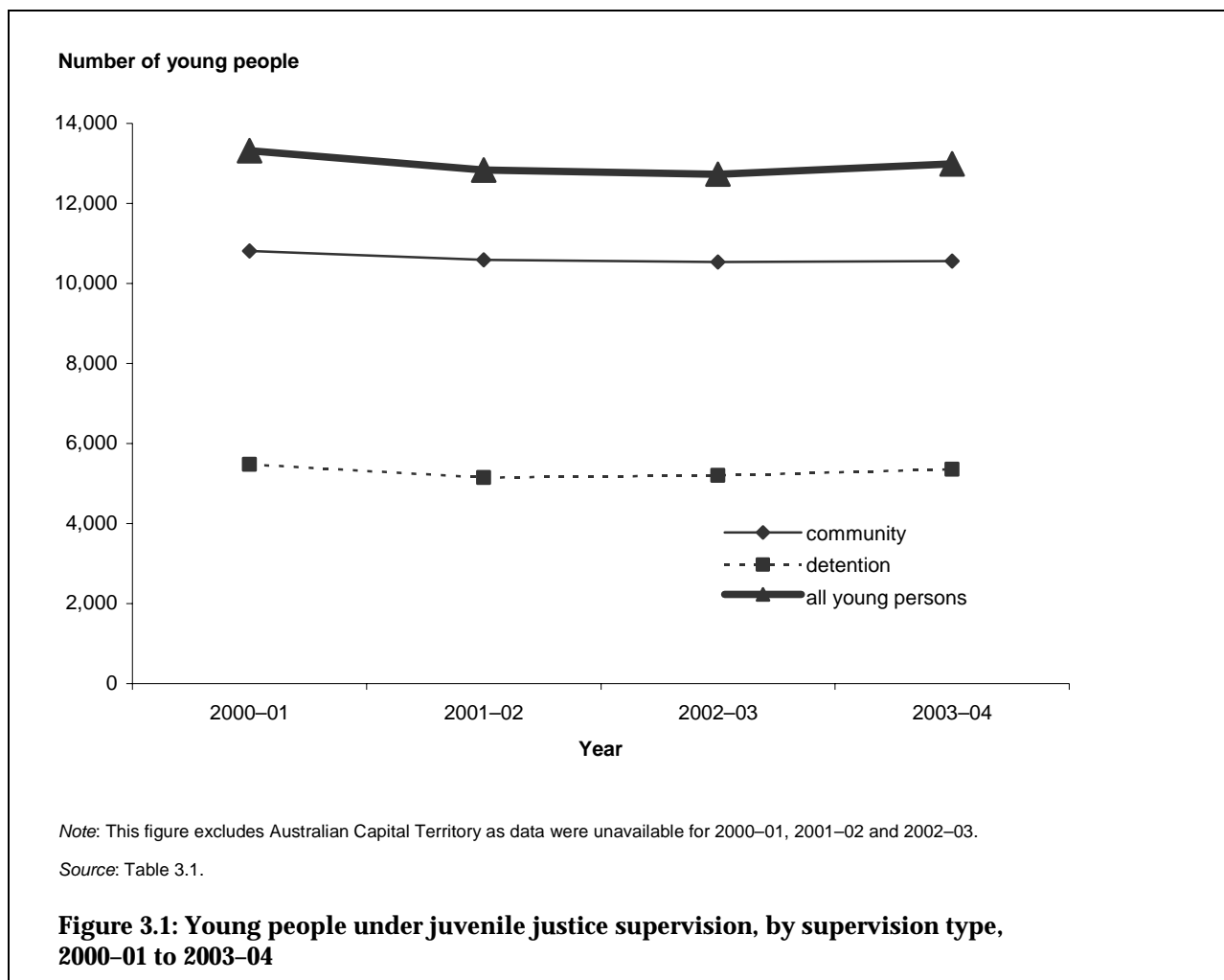
Table 3.1: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, states and territories, 2000–01 to 2003–04

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
Community									
2000–01	2,908	1,836	2,961	1,105	1,178	516	n.a.	309	10,813
2001–02	2,836	1,875	2,738	960	1,238	741	n.a.	199	10,587
2002–03	2,887	1,837	2,620	851	1,244	872	n.a.	228	10,539
2003–04	2,754	1,762	2,477	880	1,124	955	319	285	10,556 (10,237)
Detention									
2000–01	2,060	746	890	954	601	110	n.a.	122	5,483
2001–02	1,939	645	881	825	644	126	n.a.	93	5,153
2002–03	1,950	597	915	853	673	105	n.a.	117	5,210
2003–04	1,902	500	966	1,050	581	101	134	123	5,357 (5,223)
All young persons									
2000–01	3,783	2,122	3,241	1,898	1,384	543	n.a.	347	13,318
2001–02	3,634	2,072	3,037	1,616	1,452	792	n.a.	235	12,838
2002–03	3,645	2,000	2,896	1,569	1,452	898	n.a.	267	12,727
2003–04	3,523	1,890	2,800	1,823	1,318	977	336	325	12,992 (12,656)

Notes

1. Data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were not available for Australian Capital Territory.
2. This table includes young people who have had at least one day of juvenile justice supervision during the collection year. The numbers for community and detention will not add up to the 'all young persons' figure, as some young people will have experienced both community and detention supervision during the collection year.
3. Numbers in Queensland may be an underestimation due to the unavailability of data on supervised bail.
4. Victoria has special sentencing options for 18–20 year olds (see Section 1.2, The juvenile justice process in Australia).
5. Overall Tasmanian client numbers have increased due to the increased number of statutory supervision sentencing and diversionary options made available under the *Youth Justice Act 1997* (proclaimed February 2000) and the assumption of responsibility for the 16–17 year-old age cohort who previously were the responsibility of adult Custodial and Community Corrections in the Department of Justice.

There has been a decline nationally during the 4-year collection period in the number of young people under juvenile justice supervision (Figure 3.1). Excluding Australian Capital Territory, for which data are not available for earlier years, the number of young persons under juvenile justice supervision decreased by nearly 5%.



For comparison among jurisdictions, the information from Table 3.1 is presented for 10-17 year-olds only with a rate per 1,000 population (Table 3.2). Again, the figures for community and detention represent the number of young people who were subject to that type of juvenile justice supervision at any time during the collection year. These figures are therefore quite different to a one-day snapshot figure which captures only those young people who happen to be in supervision on that particular day.

Legislative differences among the states and territories mean that there are varying numbers of young people over the age of 17 who have been excluded from Table 3.2. In Victoria for example, legislation specifically allows for young people aged up to 21 to be detained in juvenile justice facilities rather than adult correctional facilities. In contrast, in Queensland, only young people from the ages 10-16 are recognised as juveniles under the *Juvenile Justice Act (1996)*.

There is considerable variation in the rate of juvenile justice supervision across Australia. On average, fewer than 5 per 1,000 young people had juvenile justice supervision each year during the 4-year collection period. Around 4 per 1,000 were in community-based supervision, and 2 per 1,000 were in detention-based supervision at some time during each year.

Table 3.2: Rates of young persons under juvenile justice supervision, aged 10–17 years, per 1,000 young people, 2000–01 to 2003–04

	NSW	VIC	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
Community									
Year	Number								
2000–01	2,270	1,442	2,451	875	890	415	n.a.	247	8,590
2001–02	2,181	1,408	2,269	804	953	541	n.a.	148	8,304
2002–03	2,256	1,392	2,235	695	963	589	n.a.	168	8,298
2003–04	2,079	1,352	2,115	719	846	648	237	218	8,214 (7,977)
Rate (per 1,000)									
2000–01	3.1	2.8	5.9	3.9	5.5	7.5	n.a.	9.9	4.0
2001–02	3.0	2.7	5.3	3.6	5.9	9.8	n.a.	5.9	3.9
2002–03	3.1	2.6	5.1	3.1	5.9	10.7	n.a.	6.7	3.8
2003–04	2.9	2.5	4.8	3.2	5.2	11.8	6.7	8.7	3.7 (3.7)
Detention									
	Number								
2000–01	1,671	302	850	868	518	85	n.a.	114	4,408
2001–02	1,584	274	838	756	549	89	n.a.	86	4,176
2002–03	1,635	273	872	740	582	69	n.a.	111	4,282
2003–04	1,570	264	927	869	484	71	123	112	4,420 (4,297)
Rate (per 1,000)									
2000–01	2.3	0.6	2.0	3.9	3.2	1.5	n.a.	4.6	2.0
2001–02	2.2	0.5	2.0	3.4	3.4	1.6	n.a.	3.4	1.9
2002–03	2.2	0.5	2.0	3.3	3.6	1.3	n.a.	4.5	2.0
2003–04	2.2	0.5	2.1	3.8	3.0	1.3	3.5	4.5	2.0 (2.0)
All young persons									
	Number								
2000–01	2,899	1,506	2,701	1,610	1,043	432	n.a.	282	10,473
2001–02	2,762	1,455	2,538	1,406	1,110	582	n.a.	180	10,033
2002–03	2,825	1,425	2,481	1,316	1,111	602	n.a.	204	9,964
2003–04	2,664	1,393	2,412	1,490	985	657	250	253	10,104 (9,854)
Rate (per 1,000)									
2000–01	4.0	2.9	6.5	7.2	6.4	7.8	n.a.	11.3	4.8
2001–02	3.8	2.8	5.9	6.2	6.8	10.6	n.a.	7.2	4.7
2002–03	3.9	2.7	5.7	5.8	6.8	11.0	n.a.	8.2	4.5
2003–04	3.7	2.6	5.4	6.6	6.1	11.9	7.0	10.1	4.6 (4.5)

Notes

1. Data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were not available for Australian Capital Territory.
2. The overall rate of Tasmanian young people has increased due to the increased number of sentencing options made available to the court from the proclamation of the Youth Justice Act in February 2000 and the acquisition of 16 and 17 year olds, formerly the responsibility of adult Custodial and Community Corrections in the Department of Justice.

3.2 Number of males and females in supervision

As is the case throughout the criminal justice system, most young people under juvenile justice supervision during 2003–04 were male (Table 3.3). Whilst there are variations among states and territories, nationally over 83% of young people were male. The highest percentage of males was found in Northern Territory (93%) and the lowest in Australian Capital Territory (74%).

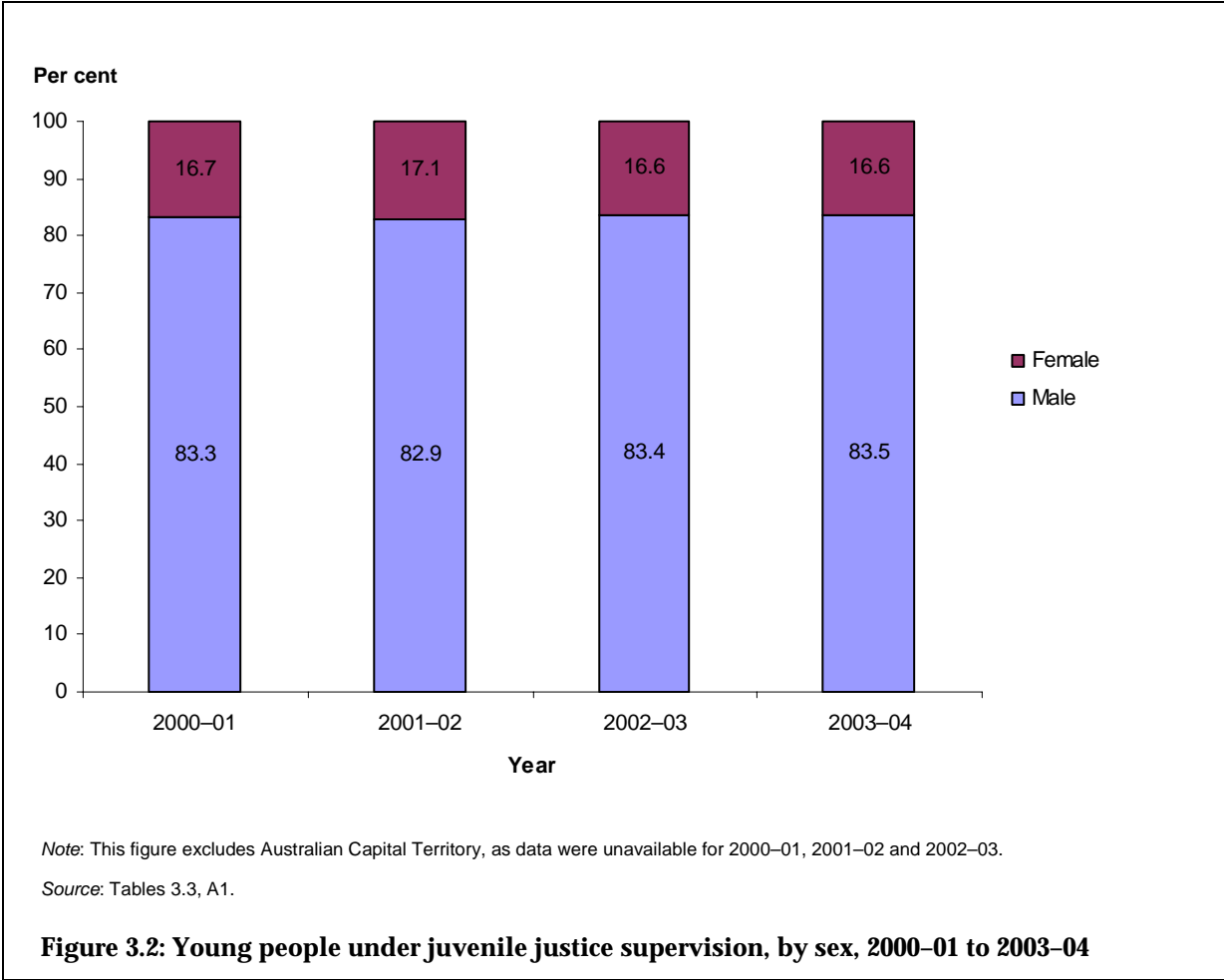
Table 3.3: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by sex, states and territories, 2003–04

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Male	2,983	1,645	2,328	1,458	1,086	780	249	303	10,832
Female	540	245	472	352	232	197	87	22	2,147
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	13
Total	3,523	1,890	2,800	1,810	1,318	977	336	325	12,992
Per cent									
Male	84.7	87.0	83.1	80.6	82.4	79.8	74.1	93.2	83.5
Female	15.3	13.0	16.9	19.4	17.6	20.2	25.9	6.8	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Australian percentages do not include unknowns.
2. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A1 to A3.

During the 4-year collection period, there has been little change in the proportion of young people by sex, under juvenile justice supervision (Figure 3.2). Approximately 16–17% of young people during the 4-year period were female.



The population rates of males and females under juvenile justice supervision confirmed the above findings. Table 3.4 indicates that during 2003-04, 10-17-year-old males were subject to juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 7.4 per 1,000 compared with females at 1.6 per 1,000. There were almost five times as many males as females under supervision.

Table 3.4: Rates of young people under juvenile justice supervision aged 10–17 years, per 1,000 young people, by sex, 2003–04

Sex	NSW	VIC	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Male	2,233	1,206	1,993	1,175	801	510	180	235	8,333
Female	431	187	419	308	184	147	70	18	1,764
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7
Total	2,664	1,393	2,412	1,483	985	657	250	253	10,104
Rate (per 1,000)									
Male	6.0	4.4	8.8	10.1	9.6	18.0	9.9	18.0	7.4
Female	1.2	0.7	1.9	2.8	2.3	5.5	4.0	1.5	1.6
Total	3.7	2.6	5.4	6.5	6.1	11.9	7.0	10.1	4.6

Note: Australia rates are based on the total minus unknowns.

3.3 Age of young people in supervision

Most young people (67%) in this collection in 2003–04 were aged 16 years or older (Table 3.5). Less than 8% of young people were aged 13 years or less. The distribution of age was relatively consistent among states and territories. There are significant numbers of young people aged 18 years and over in juvenile justice services and there are several distinct reasons for this. Firstly, most jurisdictions continue to supervise some young people who commence their sentence when they are under 18 until after they turn 18. The reasons for this include the appropriateness of continued and consistent supervision, and the level of maturity of some young people. Secondly, the legislative requirements of a number of jurisdictions requires the age at the time of the offence to determine whether the juvenile courts have jurisdiction. As there may be delays between the date of the alleged offence and the court proceedings, this also contributes to the numbers under juvenile justice supervision over the age of 18. Finally, Victoria has legislative provision that allows adult courts to sentence young people who are between the ages of 18 and 20 years to *periods* of detention in juvenile justice facilities. This allows the adult courts to take into account the maturity of the young person and the relative benefit of adult or juvenile supervision.

Table 3.5: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by age, states and territories, 2003–04

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
10	3	—	5	5	5	5	—	2	25
11	20	5	21	20	17	18	6	2	109
12	52	16	51	45	27	24	6	7	228
13	134	71	160	103	72	40	12	20	612
14	281	156	311	203	103	102	36	37	1,229
15	514	259	539	314	204	141	51	44	2,066
16	731	449	715	390	258	164	72	59	2,838
17	929	437	610	410	299	163	67	82	2,997
18+	859	497	388	332	330	320	86	72	2,884
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4
Total	3,523	1,890	2,800	1,822	1,315	977	336	325	12,992
Per cent									
10	0.1	—	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	—	0.6	0.2
11	0.6	0.3	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.8	0.6	0.8
12	1.5	0.8	1.8	2.5	2.1	2.5	1.8	2.2	1.8
13	3.8	3.8	5.7	5.7	5.5	4.1	3.6	6.2	4.7
14	8.0	8.3	11.1	11.1	7.8	10.4	10.7	11.4	9.5
15	14.6	13.7	19.3	17.2	15.5	14.4	15.2	13.5	15.9
16	20.7	23.8	25.5	21.4	19.6	16.8	21.4	18.2	21.9
17	26.4	23.1	21.8	22.5	22.7	16.7	19.9	25.2	23.1
18+	24.4	26.3	13.9	18.2	25.1	32.8	25.6	22.2	22.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Australian percentages do not include unknowns.
2. Age is calculated as at 1 January 2004.
3. Data for previous years in Appendix D: Tables A4 to A6.

3.4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in supervision

The over-representation of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in juvenile detention has been apparent for a number of years (AIC 2004). The data in this new collection covering both community and detention supervision also reflect this over-representation.

Over 30% of young people under juvenile justice supervision during 2003–04 identified/were identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Table 3.6). There is much variation among states and territories, both in the proportion of young people who are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and in the proportion of young people whose Indigenous status is ‘unknown/not recorded’.

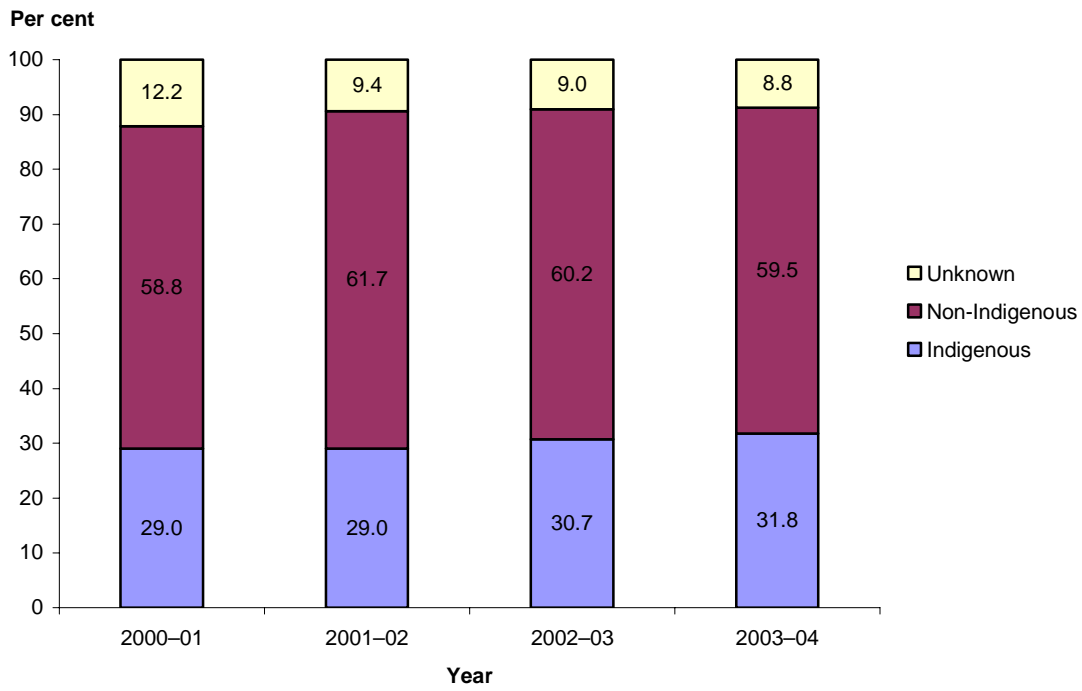
Table 3.6: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2003–04

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Indigenous	1,125	183	1,128	952	364	71	51	254	4,128
Non-Indigenous	2,096	1,707	1,670	637	843	420	284	70	7,727
Unknown/not recorded	302	—	2	234	111	486	1	1	1,137
Total	3,523	1,890	2,800	1,823	1,318	977	336	325	12,992
Per cent									
Indigenous	31.9	9.7	40.3	52.2	27.6	7.3	15.2	78.2	31.8
Non-Indigenous	59.5	90.3	59.6	34.9	64.0	43.0	84.5	21.5	59.5
Unknown/not recorded	8.6	—	0.1	12.8	8.4	49.7	0.3	0.3	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. The Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania has reported that the Indigenous data for Tasmania may not be reliable due to limitations in the reporting capabilities of the information system.
2. Data for previous years in Appendix D: Tables A7 to A9.

During the 4-year period, there has been a gradual increase from 29% to 32% in the proportion of young people under juvenile justice supervision who identified/were identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Figure 3.3). This may be due to an actual increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders under juvenile justice supervision and/or due to improvements in data quality. There were fluctuations in the proportions of non-Indigenous young people and a decrease in the proportion of unknown/not recorded Indigenous status.



Note: This figure excludes ACT, as data were unavailable for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Sources: Tables 3.6, A7 to A9.

Figure 3.3: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by Indigenous status, 2000-01 to 2003-04

The rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous juvenile justice supervision for young people aged 10–17 years shows high levels of over-representation of Indigenous youth, relative to their population distribution, throughout the states and territories during 2003–04 (Table 3.7). Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were represented under juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 34.2 per 1,000, compared with 2.8 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous young people. Western Australia and South Australia have the highest rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision, Tasmania and the Northern Territory the lowest.

Table 3.7: Rates of young people under juvenile justice supervision aged 10–17 years, per 1,000 young people, by Indigenous status, 2003–04

Indigenous status	NSW	VIC	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Indigenous	892	149	993	803	288	54	40	208	3,427
Non-Indigenous	1,575	1,244	1,417	499	629	275	209	45	5,893
Unknown/not recorded	197	—	2	188	68	328	1	—	784
Total	2,664	1,393	2,412	1,490	985	657	250	253	10,104
Rate (per 1,000)									
Indigenous	29.6	23.4	35.3	56.5	51.7	13.8	46.5	18.7	34.2
Non-Indigenous	2.3	2.4	3.4	2.3	4.0	5.4	6.0	3.2	2.8
Unknown/not recorded	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	3.7	2.6	5.4	6.6	6.1	11.9	7.0	10.1	4.6

Notes

1. The Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania has reported that the Indigenous data for Tasmania may not be reliable due to limitations in the reporting capabilities of the information system.
2. Calculation of rates excludes unknown/not recorded.

3.5 Relationships between sex, age and Indigenous status

In 2003–04 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision were younger than non-Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision. When counting young people under juvenile justice supervision aged 10 to 17 years the median age of Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision in 2003–04 was 16.0 years compared with 16.4 years for non-Indigenous young people.

Table 3.8: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by age and Indigenous status, Australia, 2003–04

Indigenous status	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown	Total
Number											
Indigenous	14	63	123	311	502	720	854	840	699	n.a.	4,126
Non-Indigenous	9	36	84	264	633	1,183	1,780	1,904	1,832	n.a.	7,725
Unknown/not recorded	2	10	21	37	94	163	204	253	353	n.a.	1,137
Total	25	109	228	612	1,229	2,066	2,838	2,997	2,884	4	12,992
Per cent											
Indigenous	56.0	57.8	53.9	50.8	40.8	34.8	30.1	28.0	24.2	..	31.8
Non-Indigenous	36.0	33.0	36.8	43.1	51.5	57.3	62.7	63.5	63.5	..	59.5
Unknown/not recorded	8.0	9.2	9.2	6.0	7.6	7.9	7.2	8.4	12.2	..	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	100.0

Notes

1. Percentages in the total column are based on total minus unknowns.
2. Age is calculated as at 1 January 2004.
3. Data for previous years in Appendix D: Tables A10 to A12.

The largest proportion of females was found in the middle of the age range (Table 3.9). Around 20% of 13–15 year olds were female, compared with around 13% of those young people aged 17 or older while under juvenile justice supervision during 2003–04.

Table 3.9: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by age and sex, Australia, 2003–04

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
Number										
Male	24	95	192	475	958	1,668	2,358	2,563	2,496	10,829
Female	1	14	36	137	270	397	479	430	383	2,147
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	16
Total	25	109	228	612	1,228	2,065	2,837	2,993	2,879	12,992
Per cent										
Male	96.0	87.2	84.2	77.6	78.0	80.8	83.1	85.6	86.7	83.5
Female	4.0	12.8	15.8	22.4	22.0	19.2	16.9	14.4	13.3	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Percentages in the total column are based on total minus unknowns.
2. Age is calculated as at 1 January 2004.
3. Data for previous years in Appendix D: Tables A13 to A15.

Young Indigenous people under juvenile justice supervision included relatively more females than non-Indigenous young people (Table 3.10). During the 2003–04 year, 20% of young Indigenous people under juvenile justice supervision were female, compared with 14% of non-Indigenous young people.

Table 3.10: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by sex and Indigenous status, 2003–04

Sex	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded	Total
Number				
Male	3,302	6,612	918	10,832
Female	821	1,113	213	2,147
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	13
Total	4,123	7,725	1,131	12,992
Per cent				
Male	80.1	85.6	81.2	83.5
Female	19.9	14.4	18.8	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Percentages in the total column are based on total minus unknowns.
2. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A16 to A19.

3.6 Age of initial juvenile justice supervision

One of the data items collected in the young person collection was the date of the first juvenile justice supervision. For all young people who received juvenile justice supervision during the 4-year collection period, the Juvenile Justice NMDS has information on the date their first ever juvenile justice supervision began, even if this was prior to 2000–01.

The date of the beginning of the first supervision a young person had which would have constituted a juvenile justice *episode* in the NMDS, was collected and used to calculate the age at first supervision. Diversions and other juvenile justice outcomes which are not collected in the NMDS are not included. Percentages in Table 3.11 add to 100% of all young people in the entire 2000–01 to 2003–04 collection period. Over 60% of young people began their first ever juvenile justice supervision when they were aged 15–17 years. Nationally, around 3% of young people were aged 10 or 11 when their first ever juvenile justice supervision began. In Victoria, a higher proportion of young people were aged 18 or over during their first ever juvenile justice supervision than in other states and territories. This may be due to the legislation in Victoria which allows for some young people aged up to 21 to be supervised by juvenile justice (see Section 1.2). In Queensland, there were few young people who had their first juvenile justice supervision when aged 17 years or over. This may be due to the legislation in Queensland which recognises 17 year olds as adults rather than juveniles. Tables with young people new to the NMDS collection each year can be found in Appendix D: Tables A20 to A23. All age-related tables are reported as age in years.

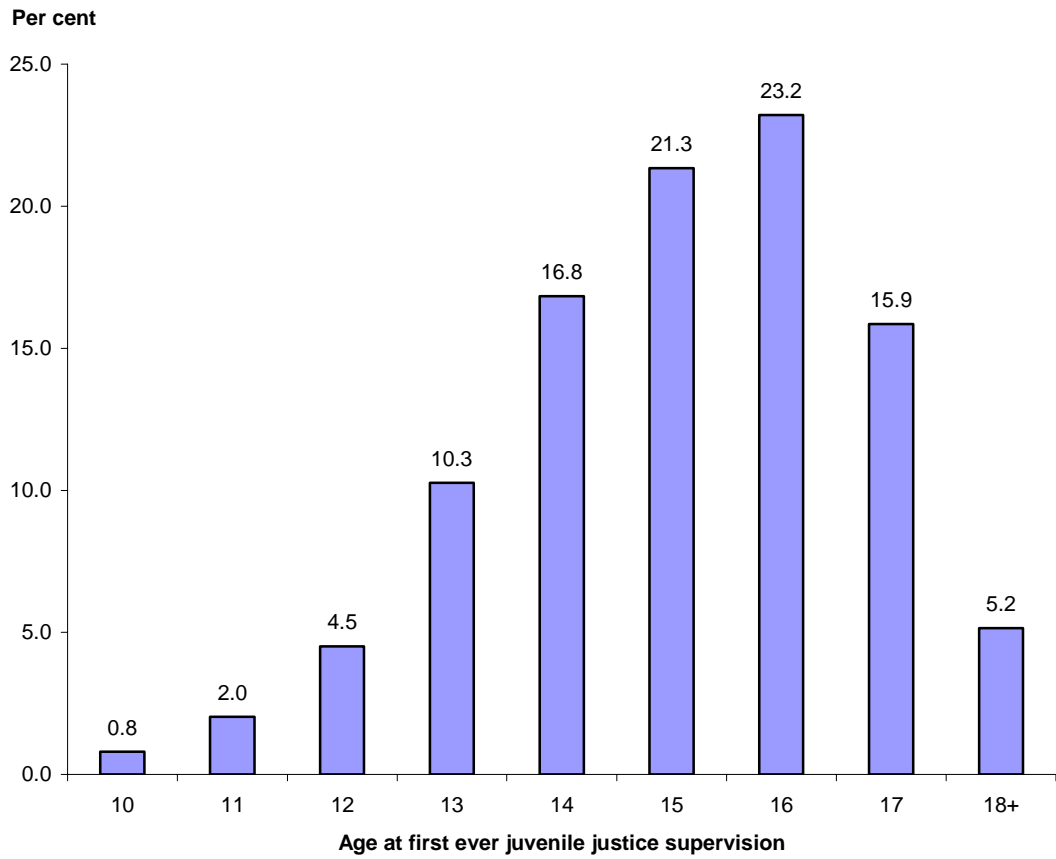
Table 3.11: Young people, age at first juvenile justice supervision, states and territories, 2000–01 to 2003–04 (per cent)

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
10	0.5	0.2	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.5	n.a.	0.7	0.8
11	1.6	0.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.9	n.a.	1.7	2.0
12	3.9	2.5	4.8	7.4	4.7	4.1	n.a.	4.9	4.5
13	9.3	6.7	11.9	14.8	9.3	8.0	n.a.	12.6	10.3
14	16.0	15.5	18.8	19.1	15.5	13.1	n.a.	17.7	16.8
15	20.7	22.0	25.0	19.3	18.6	19.5	n.a.	20.7	21.3
16	22.3	25.8	28.4	17.5	20.6	20.9	n.a.	21.7	23.2
17	20.5	13.8	7.4	16.6	19.6	20.3	n.a.	19.9	15.9
18+	5.2	12.7	0.6	0.5	8.5	9.7	n.a.	0.1	5.2
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	38
Total (number)	8,227	4,619	6,416	4,294	3,136	1,644	n.a.	696	29,070

Notes

1. Australian percentages are based on the total minus unknowns.
2. Data were unavailable from Australian Capital Territory.

The Australian average age at first juvenile justice supervision from Table 3.11 is depicted in Figure 3.4. This figure clearly shows that the majority of young people enter juvenile justice supervision aged around 15–16 years with a small proportion entering at the early age of 10 or 11 years.



Source: Table 3.11.

Figure 3.4: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, age at first juvenile justice supervision, 2000-01 to 2003-04

There were differences between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous young people with regard to the age at their first ever juvenile justice supervision. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were younger at the time of first ever supervision than non-Indigenous young people (Table 3.12). Of those aged 10, 11 or 12 years at their first ever juvenile justice supervision 56–64% were Indigenous compared with 8% of those whose first supervision occurred at age 18 or older. Indeed, 53% of Indigenous young people were aged 14 years or less during their initial supervision compared with 28% of non-Indigenous young people.

Table 3.12: Young people, age at first juvenile justice supervision, by Indigenous status, 2000–01 to 2003–04

Indigenous status	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown	Total
Number											
Indigenous	148	345	732	1,355	1,655	1,583	1,364	725	124	n.a.	8,031
Non-Indigenous	69	205	482	1,400	2,774	3,971	4,648	3,068	1,119	n.a.	17,736
Unknown/not recorded	15	39	95	226	458	639	726	811	254	n.a.	3,263
Total	232	589	1,309	2,981	4,887	6,193	6,738	4,604	1,497	40	29,070
Column per cent											
Indigenous	63.8	58.6	55.9	45.5	33.9	25.6	20.2	15.7	8.3	..	27.7
Non-Indigenous	29.7	34.8	36.8	47.0	56.8	64.1	69.0	66.6	74.7	..	61.1
Unknown/not recorded	6.5	6.6	7.3	7.6	9.4	10.3	10.8	17.6	17.0	..	11.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	100.0
Row per cent											
Indigenous	1.8	4.3	9.1	16.9	20.6	19.7	17.0	9.0	1.5	..	100.0
Non-Indigenous	0.4	1.2	2.7	7.9	15.6	22.4	26.2	17.3	6.3	..	100.0
Unknown/not recorded	0.5	1.2	2.9	6.9	14.0	19.6	22.2	24.9	7.8	..	100.0

Notes

1. This table does not include Australian Capital Territory for which data were unavailable.
2. Column percentages in the total column are based on the total minus unknowns.

The pattern of age at first ever juvenile justice supervision by sex closely follows that of the age at current supervision during 2003–04. Females were most likely to have begun juvenile justice supervision when aged around 13–15 years (Table 3.13). Females were less likely than males to begin juvenile justice supervision for the first time when aged 10 or 11 years.

Table 3.13: Young people, age at first juvenile justice supervision, by sex, Australia, 2000–01 to 2003–04

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
Number										
Male	212	537	1,099	2,411	3,882	4,999	5,539	3,917	1,258	23,854
Female	18	52	206	564	1,000	1,185	1,198	681	238	5,142
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	74
Total	230	589	1,305	2,975	4,882	6,184	6,737	4,598	1,496	29,070
Per cent										
Male	92.2	91.2	84.2	81.0	79.5	80.8	82.2	85.2	84.1	82.3
Female	7.8	8.8	15.8	19.0	20.5	19.2	17.8	14.8	15.9	17.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. This table does not include Australian Capital Territory for which data was unavailable.
2. Percentages in the total column are based on the total minus unknowns.

3.7 Summary

Over the period 2000–01 to 2003–04 the rate of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision in Australia was 4.6 per 1,000. During the 4-year collection period, the number of young people in some form of juvenile justice supervision at some time during each year declined from over 13,300 to under 12,700 (excluding Australian Capital Territory).

The majority of young people under juvenile justice supervision were in community-based supervision only. Some young people had both community-based and detention supervision within a year. Each year less than 5 per 1,000 young people aged 10–17 years were subject to juvenile justice supervision. Almost 4 per 1,000 had community-based supervision and 2 per 1,000 were in detention at some point during the year.

The majority of young people under juvenile justice supervision each year were male (83%). This proportion has remained steady during the 4-year collection period. The proportion of females was highest among young people aged 13–16 years. Females were most likely to have experienced their first ever juvenile justice supervision at around the same age.

The most common age for young people to experience juvenile justice supervision was 16 years or older (67%), with less than 8% being aged 13 or younger in 2003–04. This is in keeping with the finding that over 77% of young people experienced their first ever juvenile justice supervision aged 14–17 years.

Over 30% of young people under juvenile justice supervision identified/were identified as of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin. Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were represented under juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 34.2 per 1,000, compared with 2.8 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous young people.

4 Juvenile justice *episode* collection

Chapter 4 looks at the juvenile justice supervision of young people during the collection period 2000–01 to 2003–04. The first data presented is the amount and type of supervision, followed by comparisons by sex, age and Indigenous status. As outlined in Section 2.1.2 (*episode* collection), *supervision periods* are the main unit of analysis of contacts with juvenile justice supervision. *Episodes* then provide details on the highest level of supervision experienced by a young person at any given time, based on the hierarchy (as outlined in Section 2.1.2). These *episodes* are contained within the *supervision periods*.

4.1 *Supervision periods*

Supervision periods represent periods of continuous contact with juvenile justice supervision. A *supervision period* ends when there are 2 or more consecutive days with no current supervision. A new *supervision period* begins when the young person is next under juvenile justice supervision as a result of having committed or allegedly committed an offence. The data in this section centres on completed *supervision periods*. Some young people may be still in a *supervision period* at the end of the collection year (30 June). These *supervision periods* are considered ‘open’ and are not included in these results.

Number of *supervision periods* completed

Of all young people under juvenile justice supervision in 2003–04, over 80% had completed only one *supervision period* (Table 4.1). Data for previous years is presented in Appendix D: Tables A24 to A26.

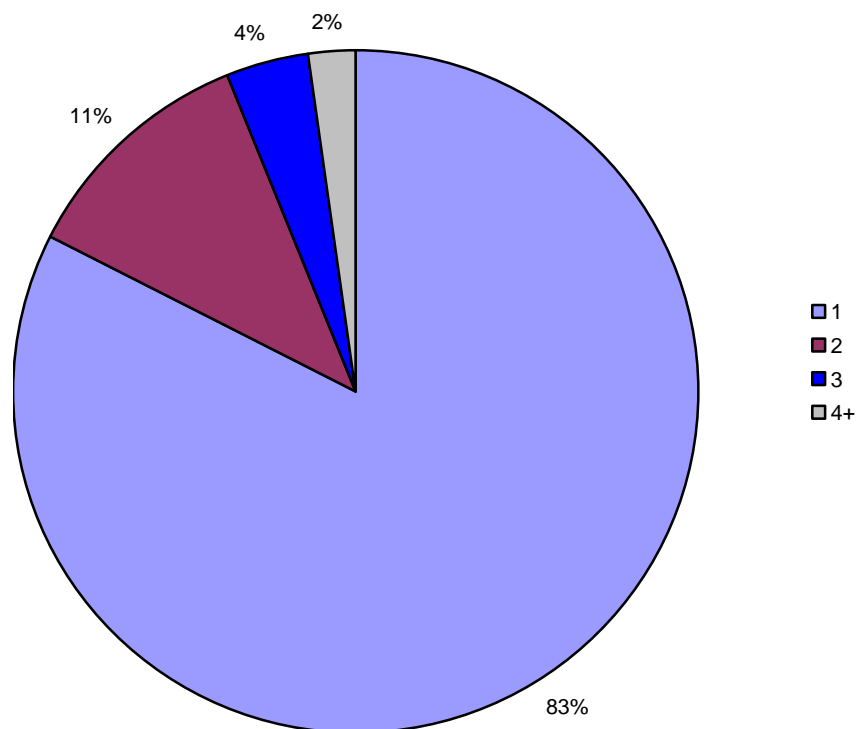
Table 4.1: Young people, by number of completed *supervision periods*, states and territories, 2003–04

Number of completed <i>supervision periods</i> per young person	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
1	2,062	1,202	1,474	986	789	525	209	144	7,391
2	393	98	132	190	136	1	44	25	1,019
3	132	13	31	83	46	—	19	3	327
4+	90	3	10	76	16	—	6	1	202
Total	2,677	1,316	1,647	1,335	987	526	278	173	8,939
	Per cent								
1	77.0	91.3	89.5	73.9	79.9	99.8	75.2	83.2	82.7
2	14.7	7.5	8.0	14.2	13.8	0.2	15.8	14.5	11.4
3	4.9	1.0	1.9	6.2	4.7	—	6.8	1.7	3.7
4+	3.4	0.2	0.6	5.7	1.6	—	2.2	0.6	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Within the Tasmanian Youth Justice Information System, *episodes* (represented as tasks in the system) are usually abutting, therefore *episodes* are following each other without gaps; therefore correctly constituting one completed *supervision period*.
2. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A24 to A26.

The totals for Australia indicate that only a small proportion of young people had more than one or two completed *supervision periods* during the year 2003–04 (Figure 4.1).



Source: Table 4.1.

Figure 4.1: Young people, by number of completed *supervision periods*, Australia, 2003–04

Length of *supervision periods*

Duration was calculated for all *supervision periods* which began within the 4-year collection period and reported in the year of completion. For example, a *supervision period* which began on 2 May 2002 and ended on 31 July 2003 was completed during 2003–04 with a length of 12 to less than 24 months.

Supervision periods completed during 2003–04 varied greatly in length from less than 7 days (23%) to 12 months or more (18%) (Table 4.2). Further analysis revealed that the vast majority of *supervision periods* which lasted for less than 7 days contained pre-sentence detention episodes (98%). These data are presented for each year in Appendix D: Tables A27 to A29.

When interpreting the appendix tables on length of completed *supervision periods*, it is important to remember that the collection period began in 2000–01. The length of *supervision periods* that began prior to 1 July 2000 has not been calculated. Therefore *supervision periods* completed during 2000–01 cannot have a length of more than 12 months with the data available. Similarly, *supervision periods* completed during 2001–02 cannot have a length of more than 24 months with the available data. For this reason also, comparisons cannot be made between the total number of *supervision periods* completed in a certain year and their length. This becomes less relevant during later years as there are fewer remaining *supervision periods* which began prior to 1 July 2000.

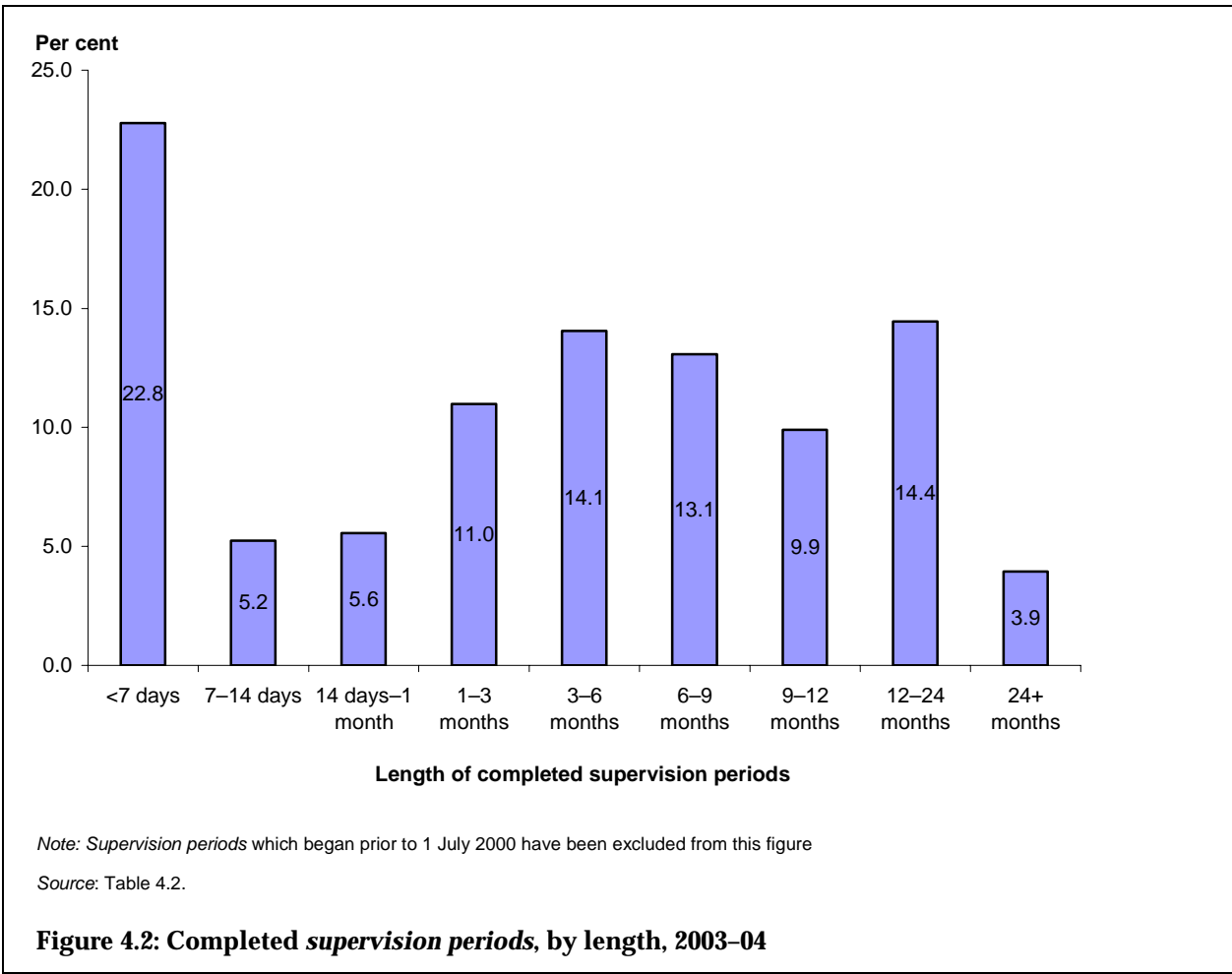
Table 4.2: Completed supervision periods, by length, states and territories, 2003–04

Length	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Less than 7 days	959	45	482	623	171	1	34	52	2,367
7 to less than 14 days	148	28	39	242	58	4	11	15	545
14 days to less than 1 month	152	48	43	194	82	18	25	16	578
1 to less than 3 months	227	232	113	203	229	64	51	22	1,141
3 to less than 6 months	478	310	167	194	134	84	66	27	1,460
6 to less than 9 months	439	289	216	169	97	77	49	22	1,358
9 to less than 12 months	315	245	141	47	148	52	66	15	1,029
12 to less than 24 months	430	207	426	44	180	138	48	28	1,501
24 months+	73	27	190	9	28	66	13	4	410
Total	3,221	1,431	1,817	1,725	1,127	504	363	201	10,389
	Per cent								
Less than 7 days	29.8	3.1	26.5	36.1	15.2	0.2	9.4	25.9	22.8
7 to less than 14 days	4.6	2.0	2.2	14.0	5.2	0.8	3.0	7.5	5.2
14 days to less than 1 month	4.7	3.4	2.4	11.3	7.3	3.6	6.9	8.0	5.6
1 to less than 3 months	7.1	16.2	6.2	11.8	20.3	12.7	14.1	11.0	11.0
3 to less than 6 months	14.8	21.7	9.2	11.3	11.9	16.7	18.2	13.4	14.1
6 to less than 9 months	13.6	20.2	11.9	9.8	8.6	15.3	13.5	11.0	13.1
9 to less than 12 months	9.8	17.1	7.8	2.7	13.1	10.3	18.2	7.5	9.9
12 to less than 24 months	13.4	14.5	23.5	2.6	16.0	27.4	13.2	13.9	14.4
24 months+	2.3	1.9	10.5	0.5	2.5	13.1	3.6	2.0	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Supervision periods which began prior to 1 July 2000 have been excluded from this table.
2. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A27 to A29.

The variation in the average length of *supervision periods* completed during 2003–04 is illustrated in Figure 4.2. Data are presented as the percentage of all *supervision periods*, of each length. Peaks can be seen at less than 7 days, 3–6 months and 12–24 months.



The relationship between the number and length of *supervision periods* completed in 2003–04 shows that the more *supervision periods* completed, the shorter they were likely to be (Table 4.3). When young people completed three or more *supervision periods* within a year, over 60% of those *supervision periods* lasted for less than 1 month. The majority of young people (83%) completed one *supervision period* during the year. Whilst almost half (46%) of these lasted for less than 6 months, 26% were over 12 months long.

Further analysis revealed that approximately half of these long *supervision periods* contained *episodes* of sentenced community-based supervision of over 12 months in length. This means that from the total of 83% of young people completing one *supervision period* during 2003–04, approximately 10% involved multiple shorter *episodes* within the one *supervision period* of over 12 months. Data for previous years are presented in Appendix D: Tables A30 to A32.

Table 4.3: Young people, completed *supervision periods*, by number and average length, Australia, 2003–04

Number	<7 days	7 to <14 days	14 days to <1 month	1 to <3 months	3 to <6 months	6 to <9 months	9 to <12 months	12 to <24 months	24 months+	Total
Number										
1	1,306	170	217	658	1,076	1,136	931	1,405	490	7,389
2	269	67	77	190	217	120	46	33	—	1,019
3	108	35	34	80	56	11	2	1	—	327
4+	86	34	26	40	12	1	3	—	—	202
Missing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	1,769	306	354	968	1,361	1,268	982	1,439	490	8,939
Per cent										
1	17.7	2.3	2.9	8.9	14.6	15.4	12.6	19.0	6.6	100.0
2	26.4	6.6	7.6	18.7	21.3	11.8	4.5	3.2	—	100.0
3	33.0	10.7	10.4	24.5	17.1	3.4	0.6	0.3	—	100.0
4+	42.6	16.8	12.9	19.8	5.9	0.5	1.5	—	—	100.0

Notes

1. *Supervision periods* which began prior to 1 July 2000 have been excluded from this table.
2. Where a young person has completed more than one *supervision period* during the year, the lengths have been averaged so that each young person is represented in this table once.
3. Missing: Two young people completed one *supervision period* which began prior to 1 July 2000.
4. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A30 to A32.

Summary

Over 80% of young people completed one period of continuous juvenile justice supervision during 2003–04. A further 11% completed two *supervision periods*, leaving around 6% returning to the system frequently enough to complete 3 or more *supervision periods* within a year. Some young people may have also had another *supervision period* which was not completed by 30 June 2004.

The length of *supervision periods* completed during 2003–04 varied greatly from less than 7 days (23%) to 12 months or longer (18%). These represent very different types of experiences, with very short *supervision periods* likely to contain *episodes* of pre-sentence detention (remand). *Supervision periods* of medium length were more likely to contain *episodes* of sentenced detention, whereas *supervision periods* of longer length were more likely to contain *episodes* of community-based supervision.

For about 25% of those young people completing one *supervision period* during 2003–04, that *supervision period* lasted for over 12 months. Most of these young people were likely to have one long sentenced community-based *episode*. However for about 10% of all young people, that one long *supervision period* contained multiple discrete *episodes* rather than one long *episode*.

4.2 Community supervision and detention

This section examines community-based and detention-based supervision. It is important to remember when reading this section that the NMDS captures information only on young people subject to juvenile justice supervision. Many young people are given unsupervised bail pre-sentence, and this is not reflected in the NMDS data. The relatively common occurrence of bail is apparent in the reasons for exit from remand (see Table 4.6).

At both pre-sentence and sentenced stage, detention-based *episodes* were generally much shorter than community-based *episodes* (Table 4.4). Pre-sentence *episodes* had a median length of 2 days when detention-based (remand), compared with 49 days for community-based (supervised bail). For sentenced *episodes*, community supervision was almost 2 times longer than detention (median lengths 148 days and 80 days respectively). It should be remembered that where a young person may have multiple potential *episodes* concurrently, the *episode* which will be counted here is the highest according to the hierarchy (see Hierarchy of *episode* types, Section 2.1.2). Therefore if a young person has both detention and community supervision simultaneously, it is the detention *episode* which will be counted in the collection. This is in keeping with the focus of the NMDS being on the actual experience of supervision. These data are presented for each collection year in Appendix D: Table A33 to A35.

Table 4.4: Episodes, median length in days, by episode type, states and territories, 2003–04

<i>Episode type</i>	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Pre-sentence									
Community	48	68	n.a.	69	31	n.a.	n.a.	—	49
Detention	2	12	1	5	2	n.a.	n.a.	2	2
Sentenced									
Community	134	182	138	141	107	232	n.a.	113	148
Detention	69	102	64	52	45	152	n.a.	37	80
Parole or supervised release	74	101	55	89	..	n.r.	87

Notes

1. The use of the *episode* hierarchy may shorten or hide *episodes* which are lower on the hierarchy.
2. In this table, contiguous detention *episodes* of the same type which are separated by a transfer within detention are considered to be one *episode* and their length summed.
3. Victoria has special sentencing options for 18–20 year olds (see Section 1.2, The juvenile justice process in Australia).
4. Australian Capital Territory data were unavailable.
5. Cells are not reported (n.r.) where the number of *episodes* is less than 5.
6. *Episodes* which began prior to 1 July 2000 are excluded from this table.
7. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A33 to A35.

Supervision periods may contain several *episode* types, and loop back within the juvenile justice system from sentenced to pre-sentence *episodes* within the one *supervision period*. Each cell in Table 4.5 indicates the number of *supervision periods* containing at least one *episode* of the *episode* type (row) expressed as a percentage of all *supervision periods* completed in that jurisdiction (column). Percentages do not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*. For example, one *supervision period* may consist of an *episode* of sentenced community supervision, then an *episode* of pre-sentence detention, and

another *episode* of sentenced community supervision. This *supervision period* would be represented in the table as containing both sentenced community supervision and pre-sentence detention *episode* types.

Table 4.5 examines the relative frequency with which different types of *episodes* occur in *supervision periods*. Where a young person was subject to pre-sentence supervision (which does not include unsupervised bail), detention-based supervision occurred more frequently than community-based. For sentenced *episodes* the opposite was found. Community-based sentenced *episodes* occurred 3 or more times as often as detention-based. These data are presented for previous years in Appendix D: Tables A36 to A38.

Table 4.5: Supervision periods, by episode type, states and territories, 2003–04 (per cent)

<i>Episode type</i>	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Pre-sentence								
Community	3.9	24.9	n.a.	0.3	27.5	n.a.	23.5	—
Detention	62.2	14.9	45.8	66.8	57.9	n.a.	38.7	44.6
Sentenced								
Community	43.1	61.8	72.3	26.0	48.3	91.4	75.5	67.0
Detention	9.1	19.1	3.4	9.1	5.7	5.5	7.9	10.5
Other	8.3	8.3	6.1	8.4	10.6	12.2	—	15.4

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail are not collected in the NMDS and hence are not included in the pre-sentence figures.
2. Column percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*.
3. Other includes immediate release or suspended detention, parole or supervised released, home detention, other sentenced *episode* type.
4. Pre-sentence community data were unavailable in Queensland.
5. Pre-sentence data were unavailable in Tasmania.
6. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A36 to A38.

With high numbers of young people in detention on pre-sentence remand being an area of concern for many states and territories in Australia during the collection period 2000–01 to 2003–04, it is of interest to examine the outcome of sentencing following this remand. This is an area in which policy differences among jurisdictions may be particularly relevant. For example, diversion and supported bail may impact on pre-sentence detention.

The ‘reason for exit from remand *episodes*’ is shown by jurisdiction in Table 4.6. *Episodes* for which the reason for exit was sentenced, and which were immediately followed by sentenced detention have been separately identified. Overall, it can be seen that many remand *episodes* ended with the young person being released on bail during 2003–04, and at most 10% of all remand *episodes* were ended by ‘sentenced’ with an *episode* of detention immediately following. There is some variation among states and territories in the outcomes of remand *episodes*. Details of these data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A39 to A41.

Table 4.6: Reason for exit from remand episodes, states and territories, 2003–04

Reason for exit from remand	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
	Number							
Released on bail	2,661	n.a.	n.a.	265	560	n.a.	77	n.a.
Matters proven/charges dismissed	63	n.a.	n.a.	10	17	n.a.	—	n.a.
Sentenced	626	n.a.	n.a.	44	99	n.a.	139	n.a.
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	346	n.a.	n.a.	31	2	n.a.	15	n.a.
Other	83	n.a.	n.a.	145	77	n.a.	37	n.a.
Total	3,433	n.a.	n.a.	464	753	n.a.	253	n.a.
	Per cent							
Released on bail	77.5	n.a.	n.a.	57.1	74.4	n.a.	30.4	n.a.
Matters proven/charges dismissed	1.8	n.a.	n.a.	2.2	2.3	n.a.	—	n.a.
Sentenced	18.2	n.a.	n.a.	9.5	13.2	n.a.	54.9	n.a.
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	10.1	n.a.	n.a.	6.7	0.3	n.a.	5.9	n.a.
Other	2.4	n.a.	n.a.	31.3	10.2	n.a.	14.6	n.a.
Total	100.0	n.a.	n.a.	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	n.a.

Notes

1. Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory are excluded as reason for exit from remand data were unavailable (see Section 2.3.3).
2. Tasmania is excluded as pre-sentence data were unavailable.
3. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A39 to A41.

Summary

The majority of juvenile justice supervision was community-based rather than detention-based. Detention usually occurred less frequently and was shorter in length than community supervision. The median length of sentenced community-based supervision *episodes* was 148 days compared with 80 days for *episodes* of sentenced detention. For pre-sentence *episodes*, the median length of remand was 2 days.

4.3 Sex comparisons

There were no marked differences between males and females in the number of *supervision periods* completed each year (Table 4.7). During 2000–01 and 2001–02, the proportion of young people who completed only one *supervision period* during the year was slightly higher for males than females, however by 2002–03, this difference had all but disappeared. There has, however, been a consistent trend for the proportion of young people who completed three or more *supervision periods* during each year to be slightly higher for females than males.

Table 4.7: Young people, by number of completed supervision periods and sex, 2000-01 to 2003-04

Completed supervision periods	2000-01			2001-02			2002-03			2003-04		
	Male	Female	Un-known	Male	Female	Un-known	Male	Female	Un-known	Male (excl ACT)	Female (excl ACT)	Un-known
	Number											
1	6,196	1,267	n.a.	6,000	1,268	n.a.	5,793	1,211	n.a.	6,089 (5,928)	1,291 (1,243)	n.a.
2	901	199	n.a.	769	174	n.a.	805	153	n.a.	862 (834)	157 (141)	n.a.
3	281	65	n.a.	249	69	n.a.	247	57	n.a.	262 (250)	65 (58)	n.a.
4+	175	55	n.a.	118	47	n.a.	163	48	n.a.	155 (151)	47 (45)	n.a.
Total	7,553	1,586	13	7,136	1,558	12	7,008	1,469	12	7,368 (7,163)	1,560 (1,487)	11 (11)
	Per cent											
1	82.0	79.9	..	84.1	81.4	..	82.7	82.4	..	82.6 (82.8)	82.8 (83.6)	..
2	11.9	12.5	..	10.8	11.2	..	11.5	10.4	..	11.7 (11.6)	10.1 (9.5)	..
3	3.7	4.1	..	3.5	4.4	..	3.5	3.9	..	3.6 (3.5)	4.2 (3.9)	..
4+	2.3	3.5	..	1.7	3.0	..	2.3	3.3	..	2.1 (2.1)	3.0 (3.0)	..
Total	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..

Note: Australian Capital Territory data for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 were unavailable.

There was a slight tendency for females to have shorter *supervision periods* than males during 2003–04 (Table 4.8). Just over one-third of *supervision periods* completed by females were less than 14 days in length compared with just over one-quarter for males. The difference between males and females in the completion of *supervision periods* longer than 14 days was consistent, although small.

The results of Tables 4.7 and 4.8 combine to show that females had a higher proportion of short *supervision periods* each year than males.

Table 4.8: Completed *supervision periods*, by length and sex, Australia, 2003–04

Length of completed <i>supervision periods</i>	Male	Female	Total
Number			
Less than 7 days	1,851	516	2,367
7 to less than 14 days	440	105	545
14 days to less than 1 month	485	93	578
1 to less than 3 months	943	198	1,141
3 to less than 6 months	1,232	227	1,459
6 to less than 9 months	1,136	218	1,354
9 to less than 12 months	859	169	1,028
12 to less than 24 months	1,249	251	1,500
24 months+	353	56	409
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	10
Total	8,548	1,833	10,391
Per cent			
Less than 7 days	21.7	28.2	22.8
7 to less than 14 days	5.1	5.7	5.2
14 days to less than 1 month	5.7	5.1	5.6
1 to less than 3 months	11.0	10.8	11.0
3 to less than 6 months	14.4	12.4	14.1
6 to less than 9 months	13.3	11.9	13.0
9 to less than 12 months	10.0	9.2	9.9
12 to less than 24 months	14.6	13.7	14.4
24 months+	4.1	3.1	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. *Supervision periods* which began prior to 1 July 2000 have been excluded from this table.
2. Percentages in the total column are based on the total minus unknowns.

During the 4-year collection period, there was a consistent finding that *episodes* of sentenced community-based or detention-based supervision for females had a greater median length than those for males (Table 4.9). These results need to be viewed in combination with other factors. The length and frequency of *supervision periods* are affected by the types of supervision or *episodes* contained within them. The finding that females had a higher number of shorter *supervision periods* each year, combined with the median length of different *episode* types suggests that the *supervision periods* of females were more likely to contain pre-sentence

episodes, especially of remand (see Table 4.10). Where females had sentenced *episodes*, they were longer than those of males, but such *episodes* were experienced less often for females, keeping the number of short *supervision periods* high.

Table 4.9: Episodes, median length in days, by episode type and sex, Australia, 2000–01 to 2003–04

<i>Episode type</i>	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03		2003–04	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Pre-sentence								
Community	32	28	46	42	44	38	49	42
Detention	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
Sentenced								
Community	71	83	129	155	126	161	144	175
Detention	51	49	77	70	81	67	81	68
Parole or supervised release	64	59	94	91	92	93	86	93

Notes

1. In this table, contiguous detention *episodes* of the same type which are separated by a transfer within detention are considered to be one *episode* and their length summed.
2. The use of the *episode* hierarchy may shorten or hide *episodes* which are lower on the hierarchy.
3. Queensland excluded from pre-sentence community as data for supervised bail were unavailable.
4. Tasmania excluded from pre-sentence as pre-sentence data were unavailable.
5. Australian Capital Territory is excluded as data were unavailable.

Supervision periods may contain several *episode* types, and loop back within the juvenile justice system from sentenced to pre-sentence *episodes* within the one *supervision period*. Over the 4-year collection period there were consistent differences between males and females in the *episode* types occurring within *supervision periods* (Table 4.10). These differences were apparent in each *episode* type except pre-sentence community-based supervision. In 2000–01, 41% of *supervision periods* for males included pre-sentence detention *episodes*, compared with 45% for females. These figures rose sharply in 2001–02 to 53% for males and 59% for females, before declining slightly over the next 2 years.

In sentenced *episodes*, the opposite situation occurred. The relative frequency of community-based or detention-based or other sentenced *episode* types in *supervision periods* was lower in females than males. This difference was most pronounced for sentenced detention *episodes* which appeared in 10% of the *supervision periods* of males and 4% for females during 2003–04. For both males (52%) and females (49%), around 50% of *supervision periods* in 2003–04 contained *episodes* of sentenced community-based supervision.

Table 4.10: Supervision periods, by episode type and sex, Australia, 2000–01 to 2003–04 (per cent)

<i>Episode type</i>	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03		2003–04	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Pre-sentence								
Community	5.0	5.2	7.4	8.8	8.0	8.7	7.9	8.6
Detention	40.7	45.1	52.6	58.5	52.0	55.0	50.1	53.3
Sentenced								
Community	57.7	54.4	51.6	45.6	51.9	50.0	51.6	49.3
Detention	16.2	10.1	15.5	6.9	13.2	6.9	9.7	4.4
Other	13.0	9.6	12.3	7.7	11.6	7.7	8.3	5.1

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail is not collected in the NMDS.
2. Percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*.
3. Other includes: immediate release or suspended detention, parole or supervised released, home detention, other sentenced *episode* type.
4. Australian Capital Territory data only available for 2003–04.
5. Queensland excluded from pre-sentence categories as no data were available for supervised bail *episodes*.
6. Tasmania excluded from pre-sentenced as pre-sentence data were unavailable.

In the states for which data were available, females exited a remand *episode* by being released on bail consistently more often than males, although the gap lessened over the 4-year period (Table 4.11). In 2000–01, bail was the exit for 65% of remand *episodes* of males and 75% for females. By 2003–04 these figures were 72% and 75% respectively.

Ending a remand *episode* by being sentenced was less common among females than males (19% for males and 15% for females in 2003–04). Where the reason for exit was sentenced, it was more common for males than females that the immediately following *episode* would be detention-based. Around 58–60% of sentenced *episodes* immediately following remand were detention-based for males during 2000–01 to 2002–03. For females during the same time, 36–49% were detention-based. The figure fell for males to 50% during 2003–04.

Table 4.11: Reason for exit from remand *episodes*, by sex, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, 2000–01 to 2003–04, Australian Capital Territory, 2003–04

Reasons for exit from remand	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03		2003–04	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male (excl ACT)	Female (excl ACT)
	Number							
Released on bail	1,904	431	2,123	527	3,004	626	3,002 (2,948)	561 (538)
Matters proven/charges dismissed	38	10	44	17	45	13	69 (69)	21 (21)
Sentenced	728	80	679	94	602	92	794 (705)	114 (64)
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	430	34	409	46	348	33	367 (355)	27 (24)
Other	278	53	244	63	251	49	294 (266)	48 (39)
Total	2,948	574	3,090	701	3,902	780	4,159 (3,988)	744 (721)
	Per cent							
Released on bail	64.6	75.1	68.7	75.2	77.0	80.3	72.2 (73.9)	75.4 (74.6)
Matters proven/charges dismissed	1.3	1.7	1.4	2.4	1.2	1.7	1.7 (1.7)	2.8 (2.9)
Sentenced	24.7	13.9	22.0	13.4	15.4	11.8	19.1 (17.7)	15.3 (8.9)
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	14.6	5.9	13.2	6.6	8.9	4.2	8.8 (8.9)	3.6 (3.3)
Other	9.4	9.2	7.9	9.0	6.4	6.3	7.1 (6.7)	6.5 (5.4)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Australian Capital Territory data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.
2. Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory excluded as reason for exit from remand data were unavailable.
3. Tasmania excluded as pre-sentence data were unavailable.

Summary

The relationship between the sex of the young person and the experience of juvenile justice supervision is complex. The proportion completing a high number of short *supervision periods* within a year was consistently higher for females than males during 2000–01 to 2003–04. There was a small but consistent difference seen in the proportion of males (5–6%) and females (7–8%) completing 3 or more *supervision periods* each year. These *supervision periods* were likely to be shorter for females (34% were less than 14 days) than males (27% were less than 14 days).

The *supervision periods* experienced by females were less likely than those of males to contain sentenced *episode* types (59% and 70% respectively during 2003–04). When sentenced *episodes* did occur though, they had a longer median length than those of males. *Episodes* of sentenced community-based supervision of females during 2003–04 were 31 days longer than those of males. For sentenced detention *episodes*, however, males had a median episode length 13 days longer than females.

Throughout the 4-year collection period, the *supervision periods* of females more frequently contained *episodes* of pre-sentence and sentenced detention, than the *supervision periods* experienced by males. However, release on bail as an exit from a remand *episode* was consistently more common among females than males.

4.4 Age comparisons

It may be expected that the experiences of people who are younger during juvenile justice supervision may be different from those who are older at that time. The following section compares older and younger people in terms of the number and length of *supervision periods*, and the types of supervision they experienced during the collection period 2000–01 to 2003–04.

There was a tendency for young people at either end of the age spectrum to have completed fewer *supervision periods* during the year 2003–04 (Table 4.12). Young people aged 10 or aged 16 or older were less likely to have completed three or more *supervision periods* during the year than young people at other ages. A more complete picture of these differences is found when looking at these results in combination with the results in Table 4.13 regarding the length of completed *supervision periods*.

Table 4.12: Young people, by number of completed *supervision periods* by age, Australia, 2003–04

Number of completed <i>supervision periods</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown
Number										
1	14	47	100	273	590	1,022	1,491	1,815	2,036	n.a.
2	4	17	26	69	111	185	229	255	123	n.a.
3	1	6	10	28	52	78	64	74	14	n.a.
4+	—	6	12	23	40	46	43	30	2	n.a.
Total	19	76	148	393	793	1,331	1,827	2,174	2,175	3
Per cent										
1	73.7	61.8	67.6	69.5	74.4	76.8	81.6	83.5	93.6	..
2	21.1	22.4	17.6	17.6	14.0	13.9	12.5	11.7	5.7	..
3	5.3	7.9	6.8	7.1	6.6	5.9	3.5	3.4	0.6	..
4+	—	7.9	8.1	5.9	5.0	3.5	2.4	1.4	0.1	..
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..

Note: Age is calculated as at 1 January 2004.

On average, the younger a person was during juvenile justice supervision, the shorter the *supervision period* completed during 2003–04 (Table 4.13). Almost half (44%) of *supervision periods* of young people aged 10–12 years were less than 7 days in length, compared with 17% for 17 year olds and 6% for those aged 18 years or over during 2003–04. Fewer than 5% of *supervision periods* completed by young people aged 10–12 years were more than 12 months long. However, for those aged 17 years or older, over 20% of *supervision periods* were longer than 12 months.

The youngest people during 2003–04 completed fewer and shorter *supervision periods*, whilst those at the opposite end of the age spectrum, 15 years or older, also completed fewer but longer *supervision periods*. It was young people aged 11–14 years who were most likely to have completed a higher number of relatively short *supervision periods*.

Table 4.13: Completed *supervision periods*, by length and age, Australia, 2003–04

Length of completed supervision periods	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown
	Number									
Less than 7 days	10	49	99	237	402	482	521	435	131	n.a.
7 to less than 14 days	1	13	25	44	92	113	125	94	38	n.a.
14 days to less than 1 month	3	22	20	48	69	113	131	113	59	n.a.
1 to less than 3 months	3	9	25	50	120	212	230	304	187	n.a.
3 to less than 6 months	6	8	17	59	116	233	302	388	331	n.a.
6 to less than 9 months	—	7	19	48	106	200	284	368	326	n.a.
9 to less than 12 months	1	8	4	27	55	108	231	283	312	n.a.
12 to less than 24 months	—	1	9	27	79	184	253	438	510	n.a.
24 months+	—	—	—	3	7	20	55	80	245	n.a.
Total	24	117	218	543	1,046	1,665	2,132	2,503	2,139	4
	Per cent									
Less than 7 days	41.7	41.9	45.4	43.6	38.4	28.9	24.4	17.4	6.1	..
7 to less than 14 days	4.2	11.1	11.5	8.1	8.8	6.8	5.9	3.8	1.8	..
14 days to less than 1 month	12.5	18.8	9.2	8.8	6.6	6.8	6.1	4.5	2.8	..
1 to less than 3 months	12.5	7.7	11.5	9.2	11.5	12.7	10.8	12.1	8.7	..
3 to less than 6 months	25.0	6.8	7.8	10.9	11.1	14.0	14.2	15.5	15.5	..
6 to less than 9 months	—	6.0	8.7	8.8	10.1	12.0	13.3	14.7	15.2	..
9 to less than 12 months	4.2	6.8	1.8	5.0	5.3	6.5	10.8	11.3	14.6	..
12 to less than 24 months	—	0.9	4.1	5.0	7.6	11.1	11.9	17.5	23.8	..
24 months+	—	—	—	0.6	0.7	1.2	2.6	3.2	11.5	..
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at 1 January 2004.
2. *Supervision periods* which began prior to 1 July 2000 have been excluded from this table.
3. Data for previous years in Appendix D: Tables A42 to A44.

After ages 14 and 15 years, there is a clear pattern of increasing median *episode* lengths with increasing age (Table 4.14). For young people aged less than 14 years, it is more difficult to discern trends in the median length of *episodes* of various types of juvenile justice supervision, especially with low numbers of 10, 11 and 12 year olds during 2003–04.

Table 4.14: Episodes, median length in days, by episode type and age, Australia, 2003–04

<i>Episode type</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+
Pre-sentence									
Community	15	29	30	29	41	42	50	60	83
Detention	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Sentenced									
Community	124 ^(a)	77	94	98	91	114	126	181	234
Detention	—	n.r.	n.r.	30	59	61	67	71	119
Parole or supervised release	—	—	15 ^(a)	39 ^(a)	60	46	59	65	135

(a) The number of observations contributing to these cells is: $5 \leq N \leq 9$.

Notes

1. In this table, contiguous detention *episodes* of the same type which are separated by a transfer within detention are considered to be one *episode* and their length summed.
2. The use of the *episode* hierarchy may shorten or hide *episodes* which are lower on the hierarchy.
3. Age is calculated as at 1 January 2004.
4. Queensland excluded from pre-sentence community as data for supervised bail were unavailable.
5. Tasmania excluded from pre-sentence as pre-sentence data were unavailable.
6. Cells are not reported (n.r.) where $N < 5$.
7. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data were unavailable.
8. Data for previous years in Appendix D: Tables A45 to A47.

Some patterns were found in relation to the proportion of *supervision periods* containing community and detention *episodes* experienced by young people of different ages (Table 4.15). The *supervision periods* of 10–12 year olds more often included *episodes* of pre-sentence detention than those of young people aged 15 years or older. For sentenced *episodes*, the reverse was true. The *supervision periods* of 10–12 year olds less often included *episodes* of sentenced detention than were the *supervision periods* experienced by young people aged 15 years or older. The proportion of *supervision periods* containing *episodes* of either pre-sentence or sentenced community-based supervision showed less clear patterns, with fluctuations across the age groups. Percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*. For details of previous years data, please refer to Appendix D Tables A48 to A50.

Table 4.15: Supervision periods, by episode type and age, Australia, 2003–04 (per cent)

<i>Episode type</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+
Pre-sentence									
Community	15.6	7.5	7.9	7.5	8.0	7.0	8.1	8.5	11.1
Detention	59.4	70.8	70.1	62.5	60.8	56.3	52.8	51.0	28.8
Sentenced									
Community	40.6	34.2	36.8	43.3	46.6	49.6	51.3	47.4	47.4
Detention	—	1.9	1.9	2.5	4.2	6.9	6.9	11.4	23.9
Other	3.1	1.9	0.9	3.4	4.6	6.9	7.3	9.1	15.7

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail is not collected in the NMDS.
2. Percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*.
3. Other includes immediate release or suspended detention, parole or supervised released, home detention, other sentenced *episode* type.
4. Age is calculated as at 1 January 2004.
5. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A48 to A50.

As the age of the young person increased, release on bail became relatively less common, and sentenced more common, as a reason for exit from remand (Table 4.16). During 2003–04, over three-quarters of remand *episodes* of those aged less than 14 years ended with bail. This decreased steadily to 63% for those aged 18 years or older. Around 21% of remand *episodes* for those aged 15 years or over ended with ‘sentenced’ and 10% (or about half of those sentences) led to an immediately following *episode* of detention for those young people. Details of these data for each year by state and territory are available in Appendix Table A51 to A53.

Table 4.16: Reason for exit from remand *episodes*, by age, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory, 2003–04

Reason for exit from remand	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown
Number										
Released on bail	17	91	141	306	481	704	801	766	255	n.a.
Matters proven/charges dismissed	—	—	2	13	14	13	18	15	15	n.a.
Sentenced	—	10	17	47	107	206	192	230	99	n.a.
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	—	1	5	9	32	91	85	122	49	n.a.
Other	2	14	14	23	41	67	63	79	39	n.a.
Total	19	115	174	389	643	990	1,074	1,090	408	1
Per cent										
Released on bail	89.5	79.1	81.0	78.7	74.8	71.1	74.6	70.3	62.5	—
Matters proven/charges dismissed	—	—	1.1	3.3	2.2	1.3	1.7	1.4	3.7	—
Sentenced	—	8.7	9.8	12.1	16.6	20.8	17.9	21.1	24.3	—
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	—	0.9	2.9	2.3	5.0	9.2	7.9	11.2	12.0	—
Other	10.5	12.2	8.0	5.9	6.4	6.8	5.9	7.2	9.6	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at 1 January 2004.
2. Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory excluded as reason for exit from remand data were unavailable.
3. Tasmania excluded as pre-sentence data were unavailable.
4. Data for previous years are in Appendix D: Tables A51 to A53.

Summary

The experience of juvenile justice supervision varies considerably with the age of the young person. These differences are apparent in the number and length of *supervision periods*, as well as in the likelihood of experiencing community and detention *episode* types, and the length of that community or detention-based supervision.

The youngest people completed fewer and shorter *supervision periods*, whilst those aged 15 years or older also completed fewer but longer *supervision periods*. Young people aged 11–14 were the most likely to have completed a high number of short *supervision periods*.

Supervision periods experienced by 10–12 year olds were more likely to have included *episodes* of pre-sentence detention than those of young people aged 15 or older. For sentenced *episodes*, the reverse was true, with the *supervision periods* of 10–12 year olds being less likely than those of young people aged 15 or over to have included sentenced detention.

The likelihood of remand *episodes* ending with being sentenced and an immediately following *episode* of detention, increased with age.

4.5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

In this section, comparisons are made between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous young people. The number and length of *supervision periods*, as well as the types of supervision are included.

Throughout the 4-year period, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people had a higher proportion of two or more *supervision periods* during the year than non-Indigenous young people (Table 4.17). Around 25% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people completed two or more *supervision periods* during the year, compared with around 15% of non-Indigenous young people.

Table 4.17: Young people, by number of completed supervision periods and Indigenous status, Australia, 2000–01 to 2003–04

Number of supervision periods completed	2000–01			2001–02			2002–03			2003–04		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded
1	2,081	4,330	1,062	1,933	4,653	693	1,996	4,361	657	2,115	4,376	691
2	407	646	50	403	512	29	391	552	17	424	532	19
3	150	187	9	153	160	5	146	153	5	154	148	6
4+	98	130	2	77	87	1	118	93	—	105	87	4
Total	2,736	5,293	1,123	2,566	5,412	728	2,651	5,159	679	2,798	5,143	720
	Number											
1	76.1	81.8	94.6	75.3	86.0	95.2	75.3	84.5	96.8	75.6	85.1	96.0
2	14.9	12.2	4.5	15.7	9.5	4.0	14.7	10.7	2.5	15.2	10.3	2.6
3	5.5	3.5	0.8	6.0	3.0	0.7	5.5	3.0	0.7	5.5	2.9	0.8
4+	3.6	2.5	0.2	3.0	1.6	0.1	4.5	1.8	—	3.8	1.7	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Per cent											

Note: Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people on average completed shorter *supervision periods* during 2003–04 than non-Indigenous young people (Table 4.18). Over 44% of *supervision periods* completed by Indigenous young people during 2003–04 were less than 1 month long, compared with 30% of those completed by non-Indigenous young people. Non-Indigenous young people completed relatively more *supervision periods* of 3–24 months in length than Indigenous young people.

Table 4.18: Completed *supervision periods*, by length and Indigenous status, Australia, 2003–04

Length of completed <i>supervision periods</i>	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded
	Number		
Less than 7 days	1,023	1,293	51
7 to less than 14 days	272	264	9
14 days to less than 1 month	291	269	18
1 to less than 3 months	384	661	96
3 to less than 6 months	395	926	139
6 to less than 9 months	379	832	147
9 to less than 12 months	270	677	82
12 to less than 24 months	438	940	123
24+ months	133	231	46
Total	3,585	6,093	711
	Per cent		
Less than 7 days	28.5	21.2	7.2
7 to less than 14 days	7.6	4.3	1.3
14 days to less than 1 month	8.1	4.4	2.5
1 to less than 3 months	10.7	10.8	13.5
3 to less than 6 months	11.0	15.2	19.5
6 to less than 9 months	10.6	13.7	20.7
9 to less than 12 months	7.5	11.1	11.5
12 to less than 24 months	12.2	15.4	17.3
24+ months	3.7	3.8	6.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: *Supervision periods* which began prior to 1 July 2000 are excluded from this table.

Consistent with the finding that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people tended to complete shorter *supervision periods*, the median length of *episodes* of each type of juvenile justice supervision was also shorter than those of non-Indigenous young people (Table 4.19). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people had shorter median *episode* lengths in community-based pre-sentence supervision and in all types of sentenced supervision. Remand *episodes* were the only type in which no difference was found, and both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people had median lengths of around 2 days.

Table 4.19: Episodes, median length in days, by episode type and Indigenous status, Australia, 2000–01 to 2003–04

Episode type	2000–01			2001–02			2002–03			2003–04		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded
Pre-sentence												
Community	27	33	64	36	49	48	32	47	71	41	53	41
Detention	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	1
Sentenced												
Community	59	81	93	104	149	180	104	142	178	121	157	182
Detention	48	52	61	67	81	119	61	87	123	66	85	140
Parole or supervised release	52	72	74	83	99	185	79	96	43	70	92	72

Notes

1. In this table, contiguous detention episodes of the same type which are separated by a transfer within detention are considered to be one episode and their length summed.
2. Episodes which began prior to 1 July 2000 are excluded from this table.
3. The use of the episode hierarchy may shorten or hide episodes which are lower on the hierarchy.
4. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data were unavailable.
5. Queensland excluded from pre-sentence community as data were unavailable.
6. Tasmania excluded from pre-sentence as data were unavailable.

Throughout 2000–01 to 2003–04 a lower proportion of the *supervision periods* of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people contained *episodes* of community-based supervision, and a higher proportion contained *episodes* of detention, than comparable *supervision periods* of non-Indigenous young people (Table 4.20). This pattern was found for both pre-sentence and sentenced *episodes*.

During 2001–02 to 2003–04, around two-thirds of *supervision periods* experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people contained *episodes* of pre-sentence detention (remand), compared with just under half for non-Indigenous young people. While pre-sentence community supervision was relatively uncommon for all young people (less than 10%), almost twice as many *supervision periods* of non-Indigenous contained such *episodes* compared with Indigenous young people.

Differences seen in relation to sentenced detention *episodes* were smaller, but consistent during the 4 years. *Supervision periods* of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were more likely than those of non-Indigenous young people to contain sentenced detention. The proportion of *supervision periods* containing sentenced detention declined for Indigenous young people from 17% in 2000–01 to 10% in 2003–04. For non-Indigenous young people though, the decline was from 15% in 2000–01 to 8% in 2003–04. The likelihood of *supervision periods* to contain *episodes* of sentenced community-based supervision was consistently greater for non-Indigenous than Indigenous young people. During 2001–02 to 2003–04, around 42% of *supervision periods* of Indigenous young people contained sentenced community-based supervision compared with around 53% for non-Indigenous young people. Percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*.

Table 4.20: Supervision periods, by episode type and Indigenous status, Australia, 2000–01 to 2003–04 (per cent)

Episode type	2000–01			2001–02			2002–03			2003–04		
	Indig- enous	Non- Indigenous	Un- known	Indig- enous	Non- Indigenous	Un- known	Indig- enous	Non- Indigenous	Un- known	Indig- enous	Non- Indigenous	Un- known
	Pre-sentence											
Community	3.6	6.3	2.1	5.8	9.0	4.9	6.2	9.9	2.8	5.3	10.2	3.1
Detention	52.7	40.7	11.2	66.5	50.8	21.6	67.6	47.1	21.8	64.3	45.7	15.7
Sentenced												
Community	50.0	57.2	80.1	42.1	51.9	76.9	42.0	54.5	76.9	42.1	53.2	81.0
Detention	17.0	14.9	11.3	16.1	13.5	6.0	14.3	11.6	6.2	10.0	8.0	3.4
Other	13.9	11.6	11.8	13.9	10.3	10.0	12.7	10.5	10.4	8.8	6.7	7.6

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail is not collected in the NIMDS.
2. Column percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one *episode type*.
3. Australian Capital Territory data only available for 2003–04.
4. Queensland excluded from pre-sentence categories as no data were available for supervised bail episodes.
5. Tasmania excluded from pre-sentence as data were unavailable.
6. Other includes: immediate release or suspended detention, parole or supervised released, home detention, other sentenced *episode type*.

Differences were found between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous young people on exiting remand *episodes*, both in the proportion released on bail and the proportion having an immediate detention *episode* after being sentenced (Table 4.21).

Throughout the collection period 2000–01 to 2003–04, the proportion of remand *episodes* of Indigenous young people ending by being released on bail was less than the proportion for non-Indigenous young people (60%–73% for Indigenous and 71–81% for non-Indigenous). A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people had a detention *episode* immediately following a remand episode ending with 'sentenced' than non-Indigenous young people.

Table 4.21: Reason for exit from remand episodes, by Indigenous status, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory, 2000–01 to 2003–04

Reason for exit from remand	2000–01			2001–02			2002–03			2003–04		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	Indigenous (excl ACT)	Non-Indigenous (excl ACT)	Unknown (excl ACT)
Released on bail	839	1,415	81	1,048	1,529	73	1,436	2,093	101	1,398 (1364)	2,067 (2024)	98 (98)
Matters proven/charges dismissed	21	25	2	17	42	2	20	35	3	42 (42)	46 (46)	2 (2)
Sentenced	358	412	38	340	414	19	332	343	19	408 (365)	483 (387)	17 (17)
Next episode type:												
detention	237	206	21	224	226	5	196	173	12	195 (190)	191 (181)	8 (8)
Other	183	146	2	173	129	5	168	130	2	178 (173)	159 (128)	5 (4)
Total	1,401	1,998	123	1,578	2,114	99	1,956	2,601	125	2,026 (1944)	2,755 (2585)	122 (121)
	Per cent											
Released on bail	59.9	70.8	65.9	66.4	72.3	73.7	73.4	80.5	80.8	69.0 (70.2)	75.0 (78.3)	80.3 (81.0)
Matters proven/charges dismissed	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.1	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.3	2.4	2.1 (2.2)	1.7 (1.8)	1.6 (1.7)
Sentenced	25.6	20.6	30.9	21.5	19.6	19.2	17.0	13.2	15.2	20.1 (18.8)	17.5 (15.0)	13.9 (14.0)
Next episode type:												
detention	16.9	10.3	17.1	14.2	10.7	5.1	10.0	6.7	9.6	9.6 (9.8)	6.9 (7.0)	6.6 (6.6)
Other	13.1	7.3	1.6	11.0	6.1	5.1	8.6	5.0	1.6	8.8 (8.9)	5.8 (5.0)	4.1 (3.3)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (100.0)	100.0 (100.0)	100.0 (100.0)

Notes

1. Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory excluded as reason for exit from remand data were unavailable.
2. Tasmania excluded as pre-sentence data were unavailable.
3. Australian Capital Territory data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.

Summary

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over-represented within juvenile justice supervision and also experienced differences in supervision compared with non-Indigenous young people. Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision tended to be younger than non-Indigenous young people, and also younger when they experienced their first ever juvenile justice supervision. Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision included a greater proportion of females than non-Indigenous young people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were more likely to complete a high number of short *supervision periods* in a year. During 2003–04, over 44% of *supervision periods* completed by Indigenous young people were less than 1 month long, compared with 30% for non-Indigenous young people.

Around 25% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision completed two or more *supervision periods* during the 2000–01 to 2003–04 period, compared with around 15% of non-Indigenous young people.

Supervision periods experienced by Indigenous young people were more likely to contain *episodes* of detention and less likely to contain *episodes* of community-based supervision than those of non-Indigenous young people.

The proportion of Indigenous young people to exit *episodes* of remand by being released on bail was less than the proportion for non-Indigenous young people for each of the 4 years.

4.6 Reasons for exit from *episodes*

The relationship among the various types of juvenile justice supervision, as represented by *episode* types, and the reasons why those *episodes* ended, provides information about the flow of young people through supervision. This section looks at different types of supervision such as community-based and detention-based, and various possible outcomes including conditions of sentence met, breach and more serious order begun. When reading Table 4.22, it should be remembered that the NMDS can only count one *episode* occurring at any one time. Therefore where more than one *episode* is current, the most serious type according to the *episode* hierarchy, is counted. This may hide the outcomes of some *episode* types, as indicated by the use of reason for exit ‘more serious order begun’.

Just over two-thirds (66%) of community supervision *episodes* ended with ‘conditions of sentence met’. Detention *episodes* were likely to end with either ‘conditions of sentence met’ (37%) or ‘released on parole/supervised release’ (38%). The *episode* type with the highest record of ‘breached’ was parole or supervised release (21%).

The proportion of community-based *episodes* ending with a reason for exit of ‘more serious order begun’ was relatively high at 19–49%. Further analysis revealed that over 80% of *episodes* following this reason for exit were of pre-sentence detention.

Table 4.22: Completed episodes, by episode type and reason for exit, Australia, 2003–04

Reason for exit	Pre-sentence detention	Pre-sentence community	Community supervision	Immediate release or suspended detention	Detention	Parole or supervised release	Other
Released on bail	73.1	0.1	—	—	1.9	—	11.5
Sentenced	15.1	0.1	—	—	1.7	—	0.8
Transferred	0.9	—	0.1	—	7.1	—	7.7
Breached	—	5.2	7.3	6.5	—	20.5	—
More serious order begun	0.2	48.5	19.1	17.8	0.1	21.9	—
Conditions of sentence met	0.1	0.1	66.1	54.8	37.4	55.9	15.4
Released on parole/supervised release	0.1	0.1	—	—	37.6	—	—
Matters proven/charges dismissed	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	9.0	45.8	7.4	21.0	14.2	1.8	64.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

1. Transferred does not include transfers from one detention centre to another within a jurisdiction in the same *supervision period*.
2. Presentence excludes Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory for which reason for exit data were unavailable.
3. Table excludes Queensland for which reason for exit data were unavailable.
4. Some reasons for exit may be due to the result of an appeal.
5. Data for previous years in Appendix D: Tables A54 to A56.

5 Juvenile justice centre collection results

This section presents the results of the aggregate data collection concerning the juvenile justice detention centres in Australia.

The data presented in Table 5.1 provides a sum of the daily count of the number of detainees at midnight for detention centres throughout Australia, by state and territory for each of the collection years. For example, in 2002–03 in Western Australia, there were 41,771 overnight stays in detention centres, which is an average of 114 young people per day.

It is important to note in Table 5.1, that all young people in juvenile justice detention facilities are counted, and this is not restricted to only those aged 10–17 years. Also, the totals for Australia vary both with fluctuations in the actual total and because of the unavailability of data from Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory in 2000–01, and from Australian Capital Territory in 2001–02 and 2002–03. To accurately compare the Australian totals over the 4 years, the data from these two jurisdictions should be excluded. These comparable totals have been provided in brackets in the Australia column.

Table 5.1 shows that while there has been little fluctuation in the number of beds in use in most states and territories over the last 4 years, there has been a steady decline in both Victoria and South Australia.

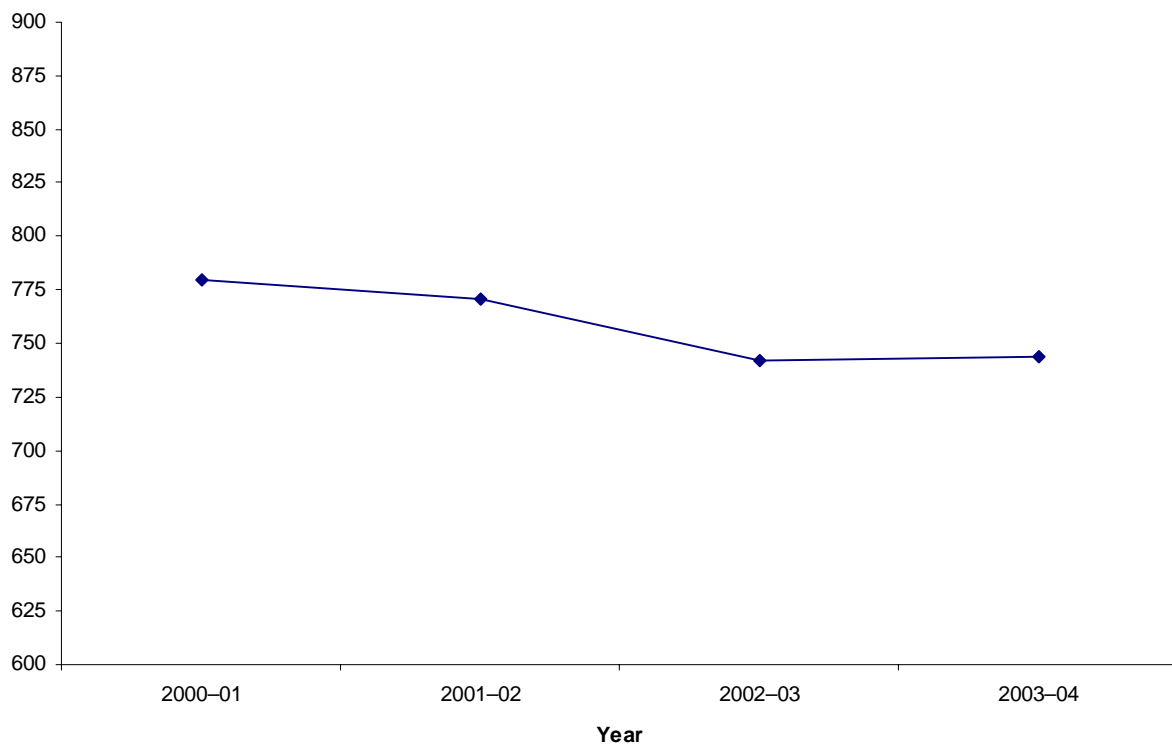
Table 5.1: Juvenile detention centres, bed days in use (number of detainees), states and territories, 2000–01 to 2003–04

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (totals excl Tas & ACT)
Number									
2000–01	111,807	64,267	34,388	42,794	26,016	n.a.	n.a.	5,665	284,397 (284,397)
2001–02	106,571	64,011	35,372	44,402	25,338	12,830	n.a.	5,852	294,376 (281,546)
2002–03	105,394	54,554	36,935	41,771	23,856	10,688	n.a.	8,590	281,788 (271,100)
2003–04	109,509	49,155	36,040	48,644	22,294	10,394	7,181	5,881	289,098 (271,523)
Average daily number									
2000–01	306	176	94	117	71	n.a.	n.a.	16	780 (780)
2001–02	292	175	97	122	69	35	n.a.	16	806 (771)
2002–03	289	149	101	114	65	29	n.a.	24	771 (742)
2003–04	300	135	99	133	61	28	20	16	792 (744)

Note: The decrease in the bed day use in Victoria over this period is attributed to new initiatives focused on diversion, transition and pre and post-release support.

Over the 4 year period 2000–01 to 2003–04, there was a small decline of around 40 in the average daily number of beds in use in juvenile detention centres in Australia (Figure 5.1).

**Average daily beds
in use**



Notes

1. Excludes Australian Capital Territory for which data were unavailable for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.
2. Excludes Tasmania for which data were unavailable for 2000-01.

Source: Table 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Juvenile detention centres, average daily beds in use (number of detainees), 2000-01 to 2003-04